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Proceedings

OF THE

Levering Family Reunion

HELD AT

Levering, Knox County, Ohio,

August 6, 1891.

CONTAINING THE INITIAL MOVEMENT,
THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE ORGANIZATION,
THE ADDRESSES DELIVERED.

THE FORMATION OF A PERMANENT ASSOCIATION FOR THE COLLECTION, PRESERVATION AND PUBLICATION OF FAMILY HISTORY.

Published by Order of the Association.

COLUMBUS, OHIO:
J. L. TRAUGER, BOOK AND JOB PRINTER.
1892.

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Preface.

In presenting this little volume to the Levering Family and their connections by marriage, containing the proceedings of the First Reunion of the Family held in the United States, it is very gratifying to state that the interest taken in the collection of Family History and the manifest family pride was sufficient to warrant the Association in publishing the proceedings and in this manner preserve the many valuable points of Historic Note presented at the meeting.

Perhaps some may be disappointed in not seeing the Family Genealogy, that was collected by the Corresponding Secretary, appear in this publication. This Genealogy was collected for another purpose. It was for the purpose of securing a complete Register of the Family in a large Register Book prepared for that purpose, and also that it might be used in compiling the New History of the Family, or a continuation of Jones' History of the Family down to the present time, which has already been commenced by Colonel John Levering of Lafayette, Ind., under the auspices of our Association. This will require considerable time to complete, as it will be a work of great magnitude, connecting, as it will, the Family with the early Pioneer Settlement of America, and the formation and protection of our Government.

The Initial Movement.

LEVERING P. O., KNOX COUNTY, OHIO. }
September 11th, 1890. }

At a social gathering held at the residence of Hon. John C. Levering, in honor of his sixty-first birthday, by his family and sixty other near relatives and made a surprise party to him, it was suggested by Charles B. Levering that a Reunion of the Leverings be held at a season of the year when it was convenient for as many as possible to attend. This matter had often been talked of by other members of the Family in the last few years, when other respectable families had been holding family reunions in honor of their pioneer Fathers and Mothers of Owl Creek valley.

The Levering family is quite numerous in this vicinity, three brothers, Daniel, John and William having moved their families here from Bedford county, Pennsylvania, and entered and bought their lands between the years 1810–1816. The suggestion having been heartily endorsed by all present, John C. Levering added, that this Reunion should include all of the name and their connections by marriage, living in the United States of America, which was heartily agreed to, and for the purpose of obtaining an expression from other members of the Family not present, a temporary organization was made by calling Charles B. Levering to the Chair and electing Clayton F. Graham (a relative) Secretary.

On motion the Chairman appointed as committee on correspondence Hon. John C. Levering, Allen Levering of Mt. Gilead, O., Fernando W. Levering of Columbus, O., John B. Levering and Clarence C. Wirick, and they were instructed to learn the wishes and desires of other members of the Family not present and make a report at a future meeting. On motion, Hon. John C. Levering, E. W. Brown and Joseph S. Graham (a relative by marriage) were appointed a committtee to fix time and place for holding the first Reunion.

The Secretary was instructed to notify the absent members of the committee and request their attendance and report at the next meeting.

After a general discussion of the subject the meeting adjourned to meet at the same place on the evening of October 25th, 1890, at six o'clock P. M.

CHARLES B. LEVERING, *Pres't.*

C. F. GRAHAM, *Sec'y.*

The Second Meeting.

LEVERING P. O., KNOX COUNTY, OHIO. }
October 25th, 1890. }

The members of the different committees and others of the Levering family met at the residence of Hon. John C. Levering. The committee on Correspondence reported that all who had been heard from and seen were very favorable to holding a Reunion, and suggested that

the exercises be so conducted as to gather in all important items of historic note and interest to the Family at large; to extend our researches as far back in the history of the family genealogy as possible, and to correct any errors that may be found in the Levering Family History published in 1858 by Hon. Horatio Gates Jones of Philadelphia, Pa., and continue that history and genealogy to the present time or make arrangements to have it done.

The committee on Time and Place reported Thursday August 6th, 1891 as the most suitable time, and as it would likely be a large gathering, they selected Mr. E. W. Brown's picnic grove as the place, this being on lands that were entered and owned by Daniel Levering, and yet owned by a relative by marriage.

The reports of the committees were adopted and on motion the temporary organization was made permanent, and authorized to proceed with the necessary action for holding the first Reunion. On motion Hon. Allen Levering and Hon. John C. Levering were appointed a committee on Program and also on Letters of Invitation, to be sent to each member of the Family and their connections by marriage living in the United States, so far as could be learned, requesting their attendance and assistance in gathering all points of historic interest that would contribute to the family history, and for their assistance in holding the first Reunion in the Owl Creek valley.

This committee was requested to report at next meeting so that all who were to take part in the exercises might be notified and come duly prepared.

The committee on Time and Place having selected Mr. Brown's grove as the place for holding the Reunion it was suggested and adopted that it be made a basket

picnic and general invitations be extended to friends and neighbors to come and join with them and have a grand social time.

On motion Shannon Levering, Noah C. Levering and C. C. Wirick were appointed a committee on Finance, and instructed to begin soliciting donations from members of the Family to defray the necessary expenses. Shannon Levering was elected Treasurer, and David Levering of Woodview, Morrow county, Ohio, Vice President. On motion Hon. John C. Levering was elected Corresponding Secretary, and given charge of all correspondence of the organization. On motion Hon. Allen Levering was authorized to procure a blank book for the Secretary in which to keep the minutes of the organization. On motion it was agreed to procure a suitable register. On motion an executive committee was appointed consisting of Hon. John C. Levering, Chairman, Charles B. Levering, Mrs. Sattira Levering, Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Cook, John B. Levering, Mrs. Carrie Levering, Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Brown, Allen Levering, Mrs. Lydia Levering, Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Cook, Shannon Levering, Mrs. Mary Levering, Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Graham, Riley Levering, Mrs. J. B. Levering, Mr. and Mrs. John Williams, Edward Levering, Mrs. Zetta Levering, and Mrs. Elmira Brewer.

This committee was to take full charge of all the affairs necessary to the successful management of the Reunion, and was also authorized to add other members if necessary. There being no other business on motion the meeting adjourned to meet at the same place on the evening of November 22nd, 1890.

CHARLES B. LEVERING, *Pres't.*

C. F. GRAHAM, *Sec'y.*

The Third Meeting.

LEVERING P. O., KNOX COUNTY, OHIO.
November 22nd, 1890.

The committees and members of the Levering Family Organization met according to adjournment. Hon. J. C. Levering was chosen Secretary *pro tem.*

In the absence of the Chairman of the committee on Program and Letter of Invitation Hon. John. C. Levering reported a Program of Exercises for the entire day. Said Program was adopted and ordered printed on a four page circular, of which the following is a copy:

PROGRAM

OF THE

Levering Family

Reunion and Basket Picnic

IN

E. W. BROWN'S GROVE,

(A RELATIVE BY MARRIAGE IN THE FAMILY)

On the Banks of Owl Creek,

AND ON LANDS ENTERED AND FORMERLY OWNED BY DANIEL LEVERING.

AT LEVERING'S KNOX CO., OHIO,

ON

Thursday, August 6, 1891.

Historical Compiler.

FERNANDO W. LEVERING.

OFFICERS OF THE

Levering Family Reunion

ORGANIZATION FOR 1890--1891.

CHAS. B. LEVERING, President.
DAVID LEVERING, Vice-President.
C. F. GRAHAM, Secretary.
JOHN C. LEVERING, Cor. Sec'y.
SHANNON LEVERING, Treasurer.

Finance Committee.

SHANNON LEVERING, CLARENCE WIRICK, NOAH LEVERING.

Executive Committee.

JOHN C. LEVERING, Chairman.

CHAS. B. LEVERING,
MRS. SATTIRA LEVERING,
ALLEN LEVERING,
MRS. CARRIE LEVERING,
JOHN B. LEVERING,
MRS. LYDIA LEVERING,
SHANNON LEVERING,
MRS. MARY LEVERING,
RILEY LEVERING,
MRS. J. B. LEVERING,
EDWARD LEVERING,
MRS ZETTA LEVERING,
MR. AND MRS. A. R. COOK,
MRS. ELMIRA BREWER,
MR. AND MRS. E. W. BROWN,
MR. AND MRS. S. J. COOK,
MR. AND MRS. LILLIE WILLIAMS,
JOHN WILLIAMS,
MR. AND MRS. J. S. GRAHAM.

Program.

THURSDAY, 9 O'CLOCK A. M.

MUSIC.

PRAYER.

ADDRESS, HON. HORATIO GATES JONES OF PHILADELPHIA, PA.

Author of the Levering Family History to 1858. On the European History of of the Family, and the Emigration to America in 1686.

ADDRESS, - COL. JOHN LEVERING OF LAFAYETTE, IND.

Giving Brief Historical Accounts of the Family in America or United States.

MUSIC

ADJOURN FOR DINNER.

Program.

THURSDAY, 2 O'CLOCK P. M.

MUSIC.

ADDRESS, Giving Account of the Life and Times of the Three Brothers who were Among the Pioneer Settlers of the Owl Creek Valley.

DANIEL LEVERING,
JOHN C. LEVERING
MUSIC.

JOHN LEVERING,
FERNANDO W. LEVERING
MUSIC.

WILLIAM LEVERING, ALLEN LEVERING
MUSIC.

ORIGINAL POEM,
MRS. AMANDA L. CROCKER
DAUGHTER OF WM. LEVERING, OF SAND LAKE, MICH.
MUSIC.

DECLAMATION, MISS NETTIE LEVERING
MUSIC.

GENERAL REMINISCENT REMARKS FROM GEN. GEO. W. MORGAN, HON. COLUMBUS DELANO, SECRETARY WM. WINDOM, GEN. A. BANNING NORTON, REV. STEPHEN COOK, DR. D. M. L. SINGERY, BAZIL MURPHEY, WM. LYON, J. M. JOHNSON, WM. KILLEN, JOHN BLAIR, AND OTHER FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS OF THE FAMILY.

MUSIC.

BENEDICTION.

The Letter of Invitation reported by the committee and adopted by the organization is as follows:

LEVERING P. O., KNOX CO., OHIO,)
February ....., 1891.)

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At the time of the celebration of Hon. John C. Levering's sixty-first birthday at his residence at Levering, Knox Co., O., on September 11, 1890, by his family and friends (who made it a surprise party to him), the propriety of holding a Reunion of the Levering Family and all connected by marriage was proposed, as had often been talked of by certain members of the family, as their grandfathers were among the Pioneer settlers of the Owl Creek Valley here, and for the purpose of obtaining an expression from other members of the family not present A temporary organization was made by electing Chas. B. Levering, President, and C. F. Graham, a relative, Secretary, and appointing a Committee on Correspondence, to-wit: John C. Levering, Allen Levering, Fernando W. Levering, John B. Levering and Clarence Wirick; also on time and place for holding the Reunion, Committee: E. W. Brown, John C. Levering, and J. S. Graham. An adjournment to meet at J. C. Levering's residence, October 25 next to hear the reports of the committees was taken.

The committees met and reported that all who had been heard from were very favorable to the Reunion, and the Committee on time and place reported Aug. 6, 1891, and in Mr. E. W. Brown's Pic-nic Grove as the most suitable place, as it would be on lands entered by Daniel Levering and yet owned in the family by a relative by marriage. It was decided to hold the Reunion and to make the temporary organization permanent with others added. Other committees were formed and adjourned to meet at the same place on November 22 next and hear further reports from the several committees.

The Committees met at that date and made very satisfactory reports. The Committee on the Exercises (Allen Levering and John C. Levering) reported a Programme and a Letter of Invitation, which was adopted, and recommended that they be sent to all of the name or to each family and connection by marriage, for, according to H. G. Jones, of Philadelphia, History of the Levering Family, published in 1858, all of the Name in the United States and Europe are of the same family. It was further resolved, that this Reunion be so con-

ducted as to gather up all items of interest, relative to the members of the family, who have been the pioneers and died since 1858; that the Jones history may be continued, and prepare the way for holding Annual Reunions of the Family, at Levering, Knox Co., Ohio, and have the proceedings printed as a Souvenir of each Reunion, thereby continuing the Family History correctly for many generations yet to come.

F. W. Levering was appointed a Committee on Printing and ordered to make report with the number ordered at the next meeting to be held on January 24 next, when the Corresponding Secretary was ordered to begin sending them to the different members of the family and request each member to be present in person and assist in conducting the exercises or in sending to the Corresponding Secretary by May next or sooner, any and all items of interest connected with the life and times of the Pioneers of their branch of the family, so that it can be given to those who have charge of that part of the program, to the end that they will be preserved and made part of the continued history of the Levering Family in which it is expected each and every member of the family will be deeply interested, and to know that they are of the old French Huguenot stock of the sixteenth century.

It certainly should be a source of pride to know that they are of the old French Huguenot stock of the sixteenth century, whose heroism in defense of civil and religious liberty is still marked features of character in their posterity to-day. The pride of the Levering Family to-day is found in its strong individuality, its healty constitution that has ever made them ready and willing to go forth and do battle for the principles that have maintained and distinguished so many generations of our ancestors.

Again extending you a hearty invitation to be present in person or send assurances of your interest and co-operation by letter, we remain,

Most Respectfully Yours,

CHAS. B. LEVERING, *Pres't.*

JOHN C. LEVERING, *Cor. Sec'y.*

On motion the Corresponding Secretary was authorized to procure a blank book in which to keep the records of correspondence. On motion it was ordered to have printed fifteen hundred copies of the Letters of Invita-

tion and two thousand copies of the Programs. On motion the Corresponding Secretary was ordered to procure five hundred one cent stamped envelopes, and one thousand two cent envelopes with return marked on them.

F. W. Levering was appointed a committee on Printing and Historical Compiler. There being no further business the meeting adjourned to meet at same place in four weeks.

CHAS. B. LEVERING, *Pres't.*

JOHN C. LEVERING, *Sec'y. pro tem.*

The Fourth Meeting.

LEVERING P. O., KNOX COUNTY, OHIO.
December 20th, 1890.

The committees and members of the Levering Family Organization met pursuant to adjournment at the residence of Hon. John C. Levering.

The committee on Finance reported that they had been successful in obtaining funds for the use of the organization.

All present were encouraged with the progress of the different committees, and after a full discussion of the various features of the enterprise, the meeting adjourned to meet at the residence of John C. Levering on the 24th of January 1891, at seven o'clock P. M.

CHARLES B. LEVERING, *Pres't.*

JOHN C. LEVERING, *Sec'y. pro tem.*

The Fifth Meeting.

LEVERING P. O., KNOX COUNTY, OHIO.
January 24th, 1891.

The officers and committees of the Levering Family Reunion Organization met pursuant to adjournment.

The committee on Exercises reported having received from the printer the Programs and Letters of Invitation, which were ordered distributed according to previous arrangement.

The committee on Finance reported forty-eight dollars subscribed. The committee was instructed to confer with Mr. E. W. Brown in regard to selling privileges on the grounds on the day of the Reunion and report at the next meeting. The propriety of employing a Stenographer to report the proceedings at the time of the Reunion was discussed, with a view to publishing the same, the majority present being favorable to the same. On motion the form of Register reported by John C. Levering was adopted, and he was authorized to procure the same. On motion the meeting adjourned to meet at same place May 23rd, at six o'clock P. M.

CHARLES B. LEVERING, *Pres't.*

JOHN C. LEVERING, *Sec'y. pro tem.*

The Sixth Meeting.

LEVERING P. O., KNOX COUNTY, OHIO.
May 23rd, 1891.

The officers and committees of the Levering Family Reunion Organization met according to adjournment. Allen Levering was elected Secretary *pro tem.*

The Corresponding Secretary read a communication from Col. John Levering of Lafayette, Indiana, proposing to change subjects with Hon. Horatio Gates Jones on the Program, Mr. Jones to prepare a paper giving a brief Historical Account of the Family in the United States, and Col. John Levering to give the European History of the Family, and their Emigration to America in 1685, which proposition was agreed to by the meeting.

The committee on Finance reported having seen Mr. E. W. Brown concerning the right to sell privileges on the grounds and that he would give them a definite answer at this meeting; on account of his absence the committee was granted further time. The committee reported having fifty-seven dollars subscribed and that they intended to see others and secure more; that thirty-eight dollars had been paid to the Treasurer.

The Treasurer reported that the bills for printing Programs and Letters of Invitation, which amounted to twenty dollars, had been paid; also some other small bills and there was yet some money in the Treasury.

John C. Levering reported having ordered made the Family Register Book in Columbus, O., and that he had received word that the proofs were at the express office, but not in time to have them at this meeting. He stated he had given the subject much thought, as he considered the book, if properly prepared, a complete Genealogy of the Levering Family and their connections by marriage, as far back as their is any record of the Family, provided it be connected with the Jones History and Genealogy of the Family, and that he would proceed to have it finished as he thought best by the next meeting.

On motion John C. Levering, Allen Levering and L. R. Selover were appointed a committee to consult a Stenographer and learn what would be the expense of having the proceedings of the Reunion prepared for publication.

On motion a committee on Music was appointed by the President, consisting of Joseph S. Graham, John Williams, Edward Levering, Lewis B. Ackerman and Noah C. Levering.

The following named ladies were appointed a committee on Decoration.

Mrs. L. R. Selover,	Mrs. E. W. Brown,
Mrs. Shannon Levering,	Mrs. John Williams,
Mrs. Edward Levering,	Mrs. J. B. Levering,
Mrs. Joseph S. Graham,	Mrs. Lloyd Levering,
Mrs. Frank Hosack,	Mrs. Clement Ackerman,
Mrs. Isaac Wirick,	Mrs. Lewis B. Ackerman,
Mrs. John Wirick,	Mrs. Mary Hardgrove,
Mrs. Carrie E. Levering,	Miss Cora Follin.

The Corresponding Secretary read several letters he had received from members of the Family who lived at a distance, saying that they approved of the Reunion

and hoped to be able to attend; others expressing regrets that they could not be present.

Hon. Horatio G. Jones wrote that on account of ill health he could not possibly be present, but would send a paper prepared on the American History of the Family. Letters were received from William Windom, Secretary of the Treasury of the United States, and from Hon. Columbus Delano, ex-Secretary of the Interior; also from Gen. George W. Morgan, in which they state their intention of being present and taking part in the exercises. Mrs. Manda Crocker reported that the poem would be forthcoming.

On motion the committee on Program was authorized to prepare and have printed a circular letter, giving the above information, and be sent by the Corresponding Secretary to each family, requesting them to send a copy of their family record, giving full name, residence, occupation, date of birth, marriage and deaths, by July first, so that it could be recorded before the Reunion and save much confusion on that day; to request each family to send a list of all articles or relics they are keeping as Family Souvenirs so it could be published in the proceedings, and to inquire how many copies of the proceedings will be wanted.

The circular letter is as follows:

Levering Family Reunion Association.

LEVERING, OHIO, MAY 23, 1891.

At the regular meeting held this evening by the executive committee of the Levering Family Reunion Association at the residence of Hon. John C. Levering, for purposes of furthering the work of holding the Family Reunion in August next it was learned from letters received by the Corresponding Secretary, that all taking part in the exercises on the program are coming fully prepared to do their part,

which was very satisfactory, and that to further aid in the exercises, and save confusion on the day in correctly recording in an Elaborate Register Book, prepared especially to keep the Family Records complete, that this circular letter is sent to each member of the family, stating this desirable information. Give full name, residence, occupation, name of Father and Mother, year, month, and day of month of their death also date of birth, when married and to whom married, giving year, month and day of month in each case, and any other information in your possession that will tend to complete the family history and send to the Corresponding Secretary immediately that the Secretary may have that part of the work completed before the Reunion, and save any confusion or error from being made that might destroy its future usefulness as a complete Family Reunion and history; also that you send in a list of the family articles of whatever kind you are keeping as a reminiscence of your great or grand parents, or any other members of your family; that a list may be printed of them for the proceedings of the Reunion with the several addresses and letters on the Family History that will ever be kept by you as a valuable addition to your library, and also how many copies of the book you desire for your family as the amount taken will very much control the price of the same. It will include the address of Col. John Levering, of Lafayette, Ind., on the European history of the family, as well as the address of Hon. Horatio Gates Jones, of Philadelphia, giving the status of the family in the United States, also the addresses of Gen. G. W. Morgan, Hon. Columbus Delano, Gen. A. Banning Norton and others; also the letter of Secretary Wm. Windom, written shortly before his death expressing a desire to be present, as the place was where he had spent his boyhood days and long to be cherished in his memory.

Please send photograph of yourself and older members of your family giving name in full, residence, birth, etc., to be kept as a family relic. Hoping to hear from you promptly.

Yours Most Respectfully,

CHAS. B. LEVERING, *Pres't.*

J. C. LEVERING, *Cor. Sec'y.*

There being no further business the meeting adjourned to meet at same place on June 20th at 7 o'clock P. M.

CHARLES B. LEVERING, *Pres't.*

ALLEN LEVERING, *Sec'y. pro tem.*

The Seventh Meeting.

LEVERING P. O., KNOX COUNTY, OHIO.
June 20th, 1891.

The officers and executive committee of the Levering Family Reunion Association met at the residence of John C. Levering. Allen Levering was chosen Secretary *pro tem.* The Finance Committee reported having seen Mr. E. W. Brown about the privileges of the grove on Reunion day, and that he freely gave them the right to do so. The report was accepted and a vote of thanks extended to Mr. Brown.

This committee was authorized to take charge of all the financial matters of the association, and E. W. Brown, John C. Levering, Lewis B. Ackerman and John Williams were added to it for the management on Reunion day. The committee referred the sale of privileges to John C. Levering with power to act. The privileges to be sold were Lemonade, Ice Cream, Candy, Peanuts, Fruit etc. and no strong drinks. The privileges were sold by John C. Levering for sixty-three dollars.

The committee on Program reported having on hand the circular letter, also the Levering Family register which was examined and approved. The committee on Stenographer reported having seen several different ones, and on motion was authorized to employ George Flint of Mt. Vernon, O., on his proposition of ten dollars for the day's work he bearing his own expenses and extra for copying ready for publication.

The committee on Music reported that the Crescent Cornet Band of Levering, O., would be donated, provided the organization would give them the privilege of a Festival in the evening. This proposition was accepted.

Clinton Levering of Chesterville, O., offered the services of his orchestra free. The Old Metropolitan Glee Glub of Levering, O., made the same offer, both of which were accepted, and thanks returned to each party.

The President was requested to deliver an address of welcome. On motion the organization adjourned to meet at the same place on July 18th at seven o'clock P. M. or at the call of the President.

CHARLES B. LEVERING, *Pres't.*

ALLEN LEVERING. *Sec'y. pro tem.*

The Eighth Meeting.

LEVERING P. O., KNOX COUNTY, OHIO.
July 18th, 1891.

The officers and executive committee of the Levering Family Reunion organization met pursuant to adjournment at the residence of John C. Levering. Allen Levering was chosen Secretary *pro tem.*

The Finance Committee reported that sixty-four dollars had been subscribed, and forty-four paid to the

Treasurer; that all bills had been paid to date, the last being for the Register, cost seven dollars.

Allen Levering read a letter from Col. John Levering of Lafayette, Ind., proposing to have some badges made and appropriately lettered, to be kept as souvenirs of the occasion. The supposed cost would be about fifty cents each, and it was thought that one hundred should be ordered, and if more needed they could be obtained afterwards, and sent to those desiring them.

Allen Levering was requested to write Col. John Levering the opinion of the association. The corresponding Secretary read numerous letters from friends from a distance who are coming and also regrets from Noah Levering of California. Mrs. Manda Crocker of Michigan and Hon. Horatio Gates Jones of Philadelphia, Pa., stating that ill health and business matters would prevent their attending, but had sent their papers to be read by others at the Reunion.

The furnishing of conveyances for friends coming from a distance from the Depot to the grove, and entertaining them while visiting here, were next discussed when all volunteered to do their several parts, and each one was appointed a committee of one to attend to what they knew the needs would be done.

On motion the meeting adjourned to meet at the grove Saturday August 1st at nine o'clock A. M. to prepare stage, seats and other preparations for decorations etc., and from then till August 6th be ready to do anything that would make the Reunion a success and a credit and a pride to all connected with it.

CHAS. B. LEVERING, *Pres't.*

ALLEN LEVERING, *Sec'y. pro tem.*

Meeting at the Grove.

LEVERING P. O., KNOX COUNTY, OHIO.
August 1st, 1891.

The executive committee and numerous friends met at the grove to make the necessary preparations for seats, stage, place for pictures, relics or heirlooms and decorations. After making the necessary preparations it was resolved to meet August 5th to complete the work. August 5th was a busy day on the grounds, the weather being fine, the decorations were all put in place by willing and industrious hands, while others were going to the Depot for friends that were beginning to arrive, all anxious to enjoy the first Reunion of the Levering Family and their connections by marriage held in the United States.

On August, 6, 1891, the Reunion was held. It was a glorious summer day and it was estimated that at least 5000 people were present during the day. The program was carried out in its fullest details and nothing was left undone to make the day and the occasion one of the most memorable in the history of the valley and certainly in the chronicles of the family. The Mt. Vernon Banner edited by Hon. Lecky Harper, an editor of a half century's experience and who was on the grounds in person, bearing date of August 13, 1891, contained the following interesting account of the day and the occasion:

THE LEVERING FAMILY REUNION AND PIC-NIC.

THOUSANDS GATHER TO DO HONOR TO THE OCCASION, AND MINGLE WITH THE DESCENDANTS OF THE STURDY HUGUENOTS.

MAGNIFICENT PREPARATIONS SPLENDIDLY CARRIED OUT.

A Program of Unusual Interest—Doings and Incidents of the Day—Valuable Relics and Heirlooms Displayed.

Over two hundred years ago two brothers named Wigard and Gerhard Levering, of French Huguenot stock, left their mother country and settled in America. They came of a sturdy and prolific race and to-day several thousand of their descendants are scattered throughout the length and breadth of the land, and the name is honored and respected wherever it is found.

On Thursday last a reunion and basket pic-nic of surviving members of the Levering family, was held in E. W. Brown's grove, (a relation by marriage in the family) on the banks of Owl creek, in Middlebury township, Knox county, just East of Levering P. O., and on lands entered and formerly owned by Daniel Levering, deceased.

The day was one of the most bright and beautiful of the summer season and preparations on a grand and elaborate scale had been made for the entertainment of the immense throng that was expected in attendance. The anticipations were grandly realized for fully four thousand people—men, women and children—assembled in the cooling shades of the beautiful grove, which covered a tract of twenty acres of ground.

Willing and industrious hands had been at work for a week or more in advance of the date, in preparation of the sumptuous feast, which was spread on the ground at one end of the grove, and represented a solid acre of food, both substantial and otherwise. A young beef had been killed and cooked for the occasion. There were scores of turkeys, spring chickens by the hundred, delicious bread by the wagon load, pickles by the barrel, innumerable cakes and all kinds of toothsome viands. Then there was a reserve supply almost equal to that spread upon the ground. In addition to this hundreds of people brought their own well-filled baskets, but the multitude partook of the grand feast prepared for them, and like the Bible story, there were many basketsful left over.

The exercises of the day began about 9:30 A. M., and a most entertaining program had been prepared. Mr. Charles B. Levering of Chesterville, acted as Chairman, and called the vast audience to order, when he made his appearance on a spacious speakers' stand. The structure was a substantial one, the top being constructed of evergreen boughs and limbs of trees. The National colors were entwined and festooned over the front, across which was hung a banner with the inscription:

1691 — LEVERING REUNION — 1891

In the center of this was a device representing two clasped hands. Suspended at different points in the stand were family portraits, among the number being those of William, Noah, John, Nathan and Joseph Levering, all of whom have long since "joined the in-

numerable caravan and gone to the pale realms of shade."

When the Chairman had secured the attention of the throng, an invocation to the Deity was offered by Wm. H. Levering of Lafayette, Ind.

Col. John Levering of Lafayette, Ind., was introduced, and read a very interesting paper on "The European History of the Levering Family."

This was followed by a musical selection by the Crescent Cornet Band of Levering.

A paper on "The American History of the Levering Family," prepared by Horatio Gates Jones of Philadelphia, was read by Mr. Frank O. Levering.

Clint Levering's superb orchestra from Chesterville, next rendered an inspiriting selection.

A letter was then read by Wm. H. Levering relating to the service of Jacob Levering, who rendered invaluable aid to his country during the Revolutionary war, by acting as a spy for Gen. Washington.

At this point dinner was served, and it was nearly 2 o'clock when the second part of the program was commenced.

A paper entitled "The History and Pioneer Life of William Levering" was read by Hon. Allen Levering of Mt. Gilead.

Music by the band was followed by "History and Pioneer Life of Daniel Levering," prepared and read by Hon. John C. Levering of Levering.

Song by Metropolitan Glee Club.

Original poem entitled "Our Story," by Amanda Levering Crocker of Shelby, Mich., read by Mrs. Cora Penn.

Music by orchestra.

Declamation, subject: "The Old House with Father and Mother," by Miss Nettie Levering.

Song by Metropolitan Glee Club.

Letters from Hon. Wm. Windom (deceased) and Gen. George W. Morgan were read by William H. McKee.

The proceedings closed with more singing and music by the band.

The actual number of Levering descendants present on the occasion is estimated at five hundred. The names of as many as could be obtained were recorded in a handsome register especially prepared for that purpose.

Among the more prominent ones in attendance were Newton Levering, Orofino, California, Col. John Levering and Wm. H. Levering of Lafayette, Ind., J. A. Levering of Albion, Ind., Columbus Levering of Pompeii, Mich., Mrs. M. Sawyer of Kendalville, Ind., Mrs. Drusilla L. Boyle, Holden, Mo., Mrs. Nancy Forsythe, Logansport, Ind., Mrs. Carpenter, Roxborough, Penn., Mrs. Nellie Charlton, Washington, Pa., John Cook, John Donaldson, and Mr. and Mrs. Small, Cannonsburg, Pa., Mr. and Mrs. W. Herenden, Chicago, Besides these there are many others from Kansas and from many portions of Ohio.

A personage who attracted no little attention was John Blair, aged 80 years, who enjoys the distinction of being the first white child born in the Owl Creek valley west of Fredericktown.

The proceedings were enlivened throughout the day by a number of vocal selections rendered by the old "Metropolitan Glee Club," an organization formed some thirty-five years ago. Six of the survivors were present and sang such familiar tunes as "The Old

House at Home," "The Joys of Western Life," "The Tea Party," the latter being a piece descriptive of the incident of throwing tea overboard in Boston harbor.

Quite a number of relics and heirlooms presented by different members of the Levering family, were placed on exhibition on tables adjoining the speakers' stand, among which may be mentioned the following;

A box made from the headboard of a cradle of Dr. Isaac Watts, the immortal hymnologist, who was born at Southampton, Eng., July 17, 1674. The box descended to Hannah Howell, who married John Levering, January 8, 1770, and is at present the property of William H. Levering of Lafayette, Ind.

Lace made in England in 1680 by Anna Watts, sister of Dr. Isaac Watts.

Cup and saucer, part of a set presented to John and Hannah Levering at their marriage January 8, 1770.

A picture of the Levering homestead in Gamen, Germany 1650.

Picture of Franz Levering and family of Gamen, Germany.

Quite a number of family groupes of different branches of the Levering family.

Daniel Levering's Bible, over 100 years old, containing the record of his parent's family.

There will be a meeting of the Executive Committee in about two weeks when the officers of the Levering Family Association will be chosen.

The proceedings of the Reunion in detail will be published in pamphlet form for distribution among the Levering family descendants.

The Reunion Proceedings.

At the opening Mr. Charles Levering, the President of the Association, said: "You will now hear a scriptural lesson read by William H. Levering of Lafayette, Indiana; then we will offer prayer."

William H. Levering: If you please, let us look up, recognizing the hand of God in all we say and do.

Hear Ye the Word of the Lord.

(Deut. 8.)

"All the commandments which I command thee this day, shall ye observe to do, that ye may live, and multiply, and go in and possess the land which the Lord gave unto your fathers.

And thou shalt remember all the way which the Lord thy God led thee, to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep His commandments, or no.

Therefore thou shalt keep the commandments of the Lord thy God, to walk in His ways, and to fear Him; for the Lord thy God brought thee into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains, and depths that spring out of valleys and hills; a land of wheat, and barley, and vines, and fig trees, and pomegranates; a land of oil-olive, and honey; a land wherein thou shalt eat bread without scarceness, thou shalt not lack any thing in it; a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills thou mayest dig brass.

When thou hast eaten and art full, then thou shalt bless the Lord thy God for the good land which He hath given thee.

Beware that thou forget not the Lord thy God, in not keeping His commandments, and His judgments, and His statutes, which I command thee this day: lest when thou hast eaten and art full, and hast built goodly houses, and dwelt therein; and when thy herds and thy

flocks multiply, and thy silver and thy gold is multiplied, and all that thou hast is multiplied; then thine heart be lifted up, and thou forget the Lord thy God, which brought thy fathers forth out of a land of persecutions, from a house of bondage; who led thy fathers through this great wilderness, and who brought thee forth water out of the rock of flint; who fed thee in this land with manna which thy fathers knew not, that He might humble thee, and that He might prove thee, to do thee good at thy latter end; and thou say in thine heart: My power and the might of my hand hath gotten me this wealth,—

Therefore thou shalt remember the Lord thy God, for it is He that giveth thee power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day."

Prayer.

"And all the congregation of Israel stood."

Our Father and our God! With reverence we come to thee—the God of the Universe, the God of nations, the God of peoples, the God of families.

From of old thou hast chosen nations, and peoples, and families.

To-day we stand before thee as a family, conscious that goodness and mercy have followed us all the days of our lives, and our desire and prayer is that we may dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

We have come from the north and from the south, from the east and from the west, to join hands and hearts as kin-friends, but first, must lift up our hearts to thee, the giver of all good, in recognition of our indebtedness to thee for the blessings of this great day.

As thou didst call a chosen family out of Ur of the ungodly Chaldees, bid them tarry in a friendly Harran till their Head "fell on sleep," and then didst bid them go forward to a land which thou didst show them, and moved them to set up an altar and worship thee. So, in great mercy, thou didst arouse the heart of our Father—who was ever obedient unto thy word, to flee from a land of intolerance, oppression, and cruelty, and by a star of promise didst lead him to a friendly Harran, where he sojourned till thou didst take him to thyself,—when the guiding star moved westward, and the sons of Rosier, discerning the hand of their father's God, followed to this land which flows with fatness.

Heavenly Father, in all these things we recognize thy loving kindness, and render thanks to thee this day. Our souls thrill with joy in

contemplation of thy indulgent care of succeeding generations. When the peace and the altars of our nation were imperilled, thou didst arouse the stalwart of our family to make successful defense; and as the fruit of the peace which thou didst vouchsafe to us, we are permitted to maintain a nobility founded in righteousness, and to enjoy fortunes begotten by honest toil;—and for these blessings we praise thee this day—"the beginning of days" of a united family, and in our rejoicing we hold up before thee in wave-offering, our ensign, the stars and stripes—symbols of the stripes of persecution and the stars of guidance by which thou didst mysteriously work out our deliverance from bondage, and of the national blessings we enjoy. Make us more worthy of these blessings, and under divine guidance, may we ever walk in Thy Commandments; may we "teach them our sons, and our son's sons," that thy favor may continue, and generations yet unborn may rise up to bless thee.

Bless us individually, bless us collectively. We beseech thee in the name of Jesus Christ, our loving Redeemer. Amen.

The President's Address.

Mr. Charles B. Levering:—Nearly a century ago the spot on which we are now gathered, resting in the bosom of this beautiful Owl Creek valley, rejoicing in the fertility of the virgin soil and luxuriant forest, was land entered by Daniel Levering, and, with adjoining lands, was settled upon by his two brothers, and thus became the cradle, so to speak, of this great family. Contact with virgin nature begat robust bodies, strong minds and earnest souls. A smiling fertility not only fills their storehouses with numerous fruits and grain, but also blessed them with a bounteous progeny. From this and perhaps other equally advantageous places their family has spread, like a fruitful vine, over the face of the earth. We humbly think they have become a light to the world, and that they are of the "salt of the earth." There is something wanting in the place that

is not honored by the presence of some member of the family. We are gathered here to-day from nearly all parts of this country as members of one family. We rejoice together under the same smiling heaven; we breathe the same sweet air; we tread the same ground; we sit under the same trees that ministered to the happiness of our forefathers. We commune with one another, and by that communion and fellowship strengthen in each other's breasts the spirit of brotherhood. We rejoice in this first grand Reunion of the Family and bid you all welcome to our hearths and homes. Now as this spirit of fraternity binds soul to soul in the sacredness of family relationship, so are we bound together to-day. We do not feel that we are strangers, although we have seen each other's faces, in many instances, for the first time to-day. You are bone of our bone, and flesh of our flesh. We bid you a hearty welcome to all the joys of this day. Welcome to our homes. Welcome to all the bounties Heaven has poured upon us. And while we rejoice together let us not forget the gratitude we owe to the Hon. John C. Levering, one of the original projectors of and a faithful laborer for this Reunion. May a kind Providence grant the happy return of many such occasions as this.

The President:—You will now listen to an address by Colonel John Levering of Lafayette, Ind.—"The European History of the Levering Family."

Colonel John Levering's Address.

This numerous assembly appears to have gathered from the "four quarters of the earth," impelled by an earnest purpose, as came the Greek, the Hindoo, and the Egyptian, upon their white camels, across the plains

of Arabia, in their course converging upon ancient Bethlehem, where Divine Love was to be born anew. It is hoped that brotherly love may be born anew in this reunion of hands and hearts. We are the descendants of the two Scions from the old family rose-tree,* who were transplanted from European into American soil in the old "City of brotherly love," from whence the seeds have been wafted as thistledown, finding a lodgment, first, in Mary's land; next, in this land of the Sciotos, and spreading beyond the Dakotas. In this fruitful valley the plant has flourished as the ambitious Banyan tree of Hindostan, taking root wherever the reaching branches have drooped, until by its multiplication, the umbrageous shelter covers a multitude. After two centuries of growth, we, the offspring, meet to-day to raise an Ebenezer, "Hither, by His help, we've come." And you ask me to tell you of our European Source.

If we could have a biographical sketch of Rosier Levering — who existed in the early part of the seventeenth century—it would constitute for us the European History of the Levering Family, as he was the first and only one of the name of whom we have any knowledge, abroad. But for the single sentence: "My father's name was Rosier Levering," expressed and recorded by Wigard Levering in his personal statement, as written in his Family Register, in his still preserved Bible, we should never have known other ancestor of the Levering Family in America, than Wigard and his brother Gerhard, who emigrated to Philadelphia, in the then province of Pennsylvania, in the year 1685. When I consider that brief, personal sketch, and note the particularity which characterizes the expression relating to

* Rosier signifies rose-tree.

his mother and wife, viz: "My mother's maiden name was Elizabeth Von de Walle who was born in Wesel. In the 23rd year of my age, I, Wigard Levering, was married to my beloved wife Magdalena Boker. Her father's name was William Boker, and her mother's maiden name was Sidonia Williams Braviers, of the city of Leyden in Holland;" and further, he adds, "said Magdalena — my wife — was also born in Leyden." Though the clods of the valley have pressed upon the form of the aged pioneer for nearly a century and a half, I cannot forget and forgive him for his miserly record of his doubtless worthy sire. "My father's name was Rosier Levering." If I could be at hand when the old patriarch responds to Gabriel's call, I feel that I could demand of him—WIGARD—in justice to your father tell us of his nativity, his life, his religious faith, his death and burial. Tradition, in all well regulated families of unbroken lineage, is subordinate only, to authenticated history. If we "stand fast and hold the traditions which we have been taught," we are entitled to believe that our first known Ancestor was a man learned in the medical profession, and possessed of pronounced opinions in religious matters. That his adherence to, and uttering these views, cost him his native home and country; that from forced expatriation he became a habitant of the province of Westphalia in Germany, from whence his sons, Wigard and Gerhard, emigrated to this country.

Had Wigard been as thoughtful of his own lineage as that of his wife, he would doubtless have added to his expression as to his father, that he was born in Nimes, a southern city in France, from whence great numbers of Protestants suffered expatriation.

History informs us that the Huguenots were numerous, even a powerful element, in the southern provinces of France a century before the time which first revealed Rosier Levering to us.

We read that Henry II., influenced, doubtless, by a sense of popularity, allied himself to the Protestant princes of Germany, and had by his action encouraged the dissemination of Protestant ideas in France, where Calvinism had already an extended influence over the people. But succeeding rulers, imbued with the doctrines of Romanism, resorted to oppression and persecution, to stamp out the religious fires which were stimulating the masses exposed to Protestant influences. As a natural sequence the Huguenots resisted, and destructive religious wars followed, which raged fiercely for many years, and until the end of the 16th century, which period determined the mediaval history of France.

It was in April 1598 that Henry IV. issued the famous edict of Nantz, which promised the Protestants many favors and privileges. Expression of opinion and berty of public worship were tolerated, as well, many civil favors were conferred. These appeared inestimable advantages according to the kingly decree, but the supposed beneficiaries were restrained from the enjoyment of them, and discontent reigned among the Huguenots, even open ferment and revolt.

"Who would be free—themselves must strike the blow."—*Byron.*

The "30 year's war" followed (1618–48). All Europe was disturbed, and measurably devastated.

It was during this period that Richelieu—with the powers conferred by a cardinals hat—practiced his persecutions w th unrelenting obstinacy, to overthrow the

Huguenot strength. His operations were especially directed against the province of Languedoc, in which Nimes is situated, from whence, tradition says, Rosier Levering came.

Kitchen in his careful history of these troublous times states: "In January 1629 he (Richelieu) carried Louis XIII. into Italy, and the Spanish raised the siege of Cascale. Thence he returned into Languedoc, where the Protestant rebels were moving: they too were speedily put down, and Richelieu, with Father Joseph, once more posed before Europe as the champion of Catholicism;" adding, "The attempt of the Emigrant nobles to raise the provinces on the borders were put down, the battle of Castlenaudary in Languedoc closed the series of outbreaks."

After subduing Languedoc, Richelieu rearranged the Governorships of the provinces, removing hostile or suspected governors, and putting his own friends in their places. By the end of 1632 he had crushed all the serious elements of resistance throughout France.

These disturbing events took place contemporaneously with Rosier Levering's early manhood. We can imagine that he was one of the "emigrant nobles," who because of failure to incite the provinces to successful resistance, left France, and sought domicil in hospitable Germany; with others directing his steps toward Westphalia, where in 1638, the initiatory steps were taken tending to a lasting peace, though not fully accomplished until ten years later.

"Easier were it
To hurl the rooted mountain from its base,
Than force the yoke of slavery upon men
Determined to be free."—*Southey.*

Hence these God-serving patriots could renounce allegiance to unworthy rulers, to seek brighter fields and more indulgent skies.

It must have cost Rosier Levering and his compatriots pangs allied to death-throes, to feel compelled to seek enjoyment of life and liberty in stranger's land.

To leave the ancient city which was founded before the star appeared in Bethlehem, a city of wealth, of grandeur, possessed of archaeological treasures, of ancient architectural structures.

Here, were the Temple, the fortifications and city walls, built by Augustus—in the latter, two gates of Augustus, dating 16 B. C., still standing.

The Circus or the theatre constructed in the reign of Nero. (37—68, A. D.). The Basilica of Plotina erected under Hadrian, (117–138 A. D.). The Temple of Apollo, and other attractions to bind native sons to their home.

Nimes, was one of the most important cities of Gaul. Its advanced civilization developed true Christianity, so that by the middle of the 16th century, about three-fourths of the citizens had become protestant; and here were religious dissensions which startled the empire.

History tells us that Louis XIV. (Born 1638) built here a fortress (1687) to keep in check the disturbances caused by religious partizans. But, the bickerings tended to expel the peacefully inclined class to which we believe our ancestor belonged.

What a travesty upon religion,—when associated with the state, that true Christians must leave their native homes to search for more generous residence, in foreign lands where they might worship the Master, unmolested. It is well that the God of Gaul was God

of the Universe, that the wanderers might seek Him—as did Mary, at the Sepulcher—with the question, "Tell us where we may find Him?"

The travel was not a great undertaking, as France and Germany have a common boundary in the Vosges mountain range for more than two hundred and fifty miles.

We have substantial evidence of Rosier Levering's nativity in French soil, from the name. A well known linguist, whose interest I enlisted in the researches in Germany, for Rosier's birth-place and further history, called attention to the fact that the name is of French signification, Rosier meaning *rose tree*, and Levering, or rather, Le Vering, a *glass merchant*, and stating that the name has no German sound or meaning. A further evidence is presented in the fact, that Wigard, in the still preserved written contract with the Frankfort company (20. March 1685) for transportation of himself and family, and brother Gerhard, to America, also in the family register in his Bible,—written after his arrival in this country—wrote the name of *Levering*—as his father bore it and gave it to him. The while, it is significant in this connection, that when a remnant of the family was recently discovered in the town of Gemen, in Westphalia, where Wigard and Gerhard were born, the orthography of the name had become teutonized into Lefering—f. being the German substitute for v. in all cases, and having the same sound. Thus satisfying the local characteristic of language, as we anglicize the German Schmidt into Smith.

It may be that the final g. was a German suffix, as French names do not end so, I believe. There is evidence of the antiquity of the family name in the fact

that heraldic honors attach to it, being embraced in the lists of conventional distinction, since many generations ago.

The symbols assigned being, viz: "Three hares in pale on azure shield." Why these devices are accorded to the name, is not explained in the heraldic Encyclopedia which records them. Specific symbols have, during centuries past, being conferred upon both, national and family organizations. It was not unusual that these symbols possessed some adaptable relation, either to some achievement or event; else to the occupation of the person crowned or knighted.

We may assume that the people of Israel would be entitled to adopt a "serpent of brass put upon a pole" (en pale) as well, the tribe of Judah, blazon a lion upon their shields and banners. Why the Levering ancestor should be entitled to three hares upon a shield, we cannot understand.

It may have been a caprice on the part of the bestowing authority, else, as selected by the beneficiary.

More than forty-five years ago, I first learned of this family coat-of-arms, in an ancient volume of heraldry. At that time I had the insignia interpreted and engraved upon this seal (exhibited) by a skilled heraldic engraver.

I will confess that the motto *Ducit amor Patriae* supplementing it, was my own selection and adoption.

The badges furnished and worn on this occasion by many of you have a correct interpretation of this family coat-of-arms emblazoned thereon.

The origin of this family escutcheon, I have not yet discovered. *Brande*, wrote: "German heraldry appears to be a natural science, from the circumstance that its terms of art are nearly all of native origin. But

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the Normans and French cultivated it with greatest success and reduced it to systematic form," adding: "our English forms of heraldry are derived from the French language."

This explains in some degree the finding of our name and insignia in English lists.

It is not known in what year Rosier Levering left France, nor his probable age at the time. That he married "Elizabeth Van de Walle, who was born in Wesel,", in Germany, on the Rhine, a city of culture, commerce and great antiquity, we infer that he emigrated in early manhood, unmarried, and prior to the year 1648.

From Wigard Levering's statement, in the family bible referred to, viz: "In the 23d year of my age I was married to my beloved wife, Magdalena Boker" and his statement, made March, 1685, in his contract for transportation to America, viz: "to accept or receive me Wigard Levering, old 37 years," we estimate his birth about the year 1649.

We have evidence that Rosier settled in Gemen and remained there for many years.

Whether Wigard was his first born we know not. The latter wrote of himself. "I Wigard Levering was born in Germany, in the principality of Westphalia, in the District of Munster and town of Gemen." We may believe that the family home was in Gemen. That Wigard married there. His Bible record states as to birth of his children. "The first, born Joanna Sophia was born in Gemen, in the year 1672." We assume that Gerhard, and other children of Rosier, were born in the same town.

We have the testimony of Wigard's family register, that he changed his residence from Gemen to Mulheim,

after the birth of his first child, as he records the birth of five more children, viz. Anna Catharina, Maria Elizabeth, William. Amelia Anna Sophia and Anna Sibella, the last in "September 1684." "All" he writes "born in Mulheim on the Rhur in Germany." When he entered into contract with the Frankfort company, for transportation to America, he specifically names himself and his wife, adding, "and four children, Anna Catharina, William, Amelia and Sibella, respectively ½, 2½, 5 and 9 years."

The first born Joanna Sophia, and Maria Elizabeth died in infancy, as noted in his statement.

The contract for transportation of Gerhard appears indorsed upon the agreement for Wigard and his family, as "the contractors brother Gerhard Levering," but does not state his age, as was done with each of the others.

We are led to believe, that in the expatriation of Wigard and Gerhard Levering from Germany, they were induced by a spirit of enterprize and ambition to seek homes in the new world, and were not driven by merciless persecution, as their father had been.

When William Penn had acquired his domain in Pennsylvania, he made especial effort to induce the emigration of industrious men and families from Germany. He visited the provinces and urged emigration. In his anto-biography he names the towns and cities in which he labored and it appears that he visited Mulheim during Wigard Levering's residence there, and was the direct instrument in persuading him to emigrate, which he did soon after, and Gerhard with him.

It is of greatest interest to us to note that Jacob Van de Walle, apparently a leading spirit in the Frankfort company, was of the same sur-name as Rosier

Levering's wife, who was Elizabeth Van de Walle. This may have been an added source of encouragement to Wigard and Gerhard to try their fortunes beyond the sea.

The Frankfort company appear to have organized in view of gain from transportation of emigrants and speculation in lands in America.

In a history of the Mennonites by Daniel K. Cassel of Germantown, Philadelphia, the author states: "In November 1682 we find the earliest reference to the enterprize which resulted in the formation of the Frankfort company. At that date Pastorius heard of it for the first time, and he, as agent, bought the lands while in London, between the 8th of May and 6th of June, 1683, (see Pastorius' mss. in the Historical Society of Pa.) The eight original purchasers were Jacob Van de Walle, Dr. Johann Jacob Schultz, Johann Wilhelm Uberfeldt, Daniel Behagle and four others named. The members subsequently increased to eleven, of whom, five of them lived in Frankfort, *two in Wesel.*" "No one of its members except Pastorius ever came to Pennsylvania."

It is highly probable that of the two members resident in Wesel, one was Jacob Van de Walle, and not improbable that he was a brother to the mother of Wigard and Gerhard Levering. As Wigard records she "was born in Wesel."

I believe that many of the Levering family embracing the connections, have studied the annals of the family, published in the year 1858, as compiled by the Hon. Horatio Gates Jones of Philadelphia, who is with us in life in a "green old age." His efforts created the clan, and made this re-union possible. In the volume he refers to the traditions as to Rosier Levering, of his pro-

fession, his pious proclivities, his French origin, and his involuntary emigration from his native country.

Mr. Jones states: "Of the European history of the family nothing whatever is known, except what is contained in the Family Bible of Wigard Levering," adding, "I leave the elucidation to some future genealogist of the family who may, perhaps, discover some facts by examining the proper offices in Germany."

As I read these expressions from time to time, I may say from year to year, I felt the inspiration to make effort in the direction indicated, but no source or channel of information appearing practicable, the promptings would be dissipated.

In the year 1882, means of making the search were presented to my mind through acquaintance with a clergyman learned in many languages, named John U. Zurcher, who had returned to Switzerland, his native country.

After considerable study of the subject, I wrote to Reverend Zurcher on January 20, 1882. Furnished him the clew given us in Wigard Levering's Family Register, in fact, I copied the list of births with their dates, gave to him the traditions of the family: the Frankfort company, the visits of William Penn, the contract for transportation, the suggested relation of Jacob Van de Walle, then submitted questions, as follow:

I. It is possible that the marriage of Wigard Levering and Magdalena Boker is of record in Gemen, (possibly in Leyden) and that his father's name (Rosier) and *place of his nativity*, are noted?

II. May not Rosier Levering's marriage with Elizabeth Van de Walle be recorded in Wesel or Gemen, prior to 1648 and the place of his *nativity* be there noted?

III. The birth of Wigard in Gemen, about 1648–9, may be recorded, and his father's name and *nativity* be there given?

IV. "The death of Rosier or his wife may be recorded," etc., adding: "In any case, I would want translated copy. I am anxious to learn the *nativity* of Rosier. If this can be found, I may pursue inquiry farther, if church or other records exist."

As may be expected, I had to assure compensation for the service of himself or of any church or civil officers, employed.

Not until April 13th following was reply made. The delay was explained however, in detail of effort to organize the search. He had written to Bishop Funke of Bremen informing him of the quest, giving list of the towns and places for inquiry.

The bishop stating in reply that he had "employed the pastor at Wesel for searching there, but had searched in vain," however he had written to another pastor, who, he writes, "is known as the most sagacious tracer ever found in such matters. This man may be at work now," etc.

On May 1st, 1882, Rev. Zurcher wrote: "I have come into possession of four letters; from Wesel, Mulheim on the Rhur, Gemen and Bremen, sent to me as reports of four clergymen, who had made diligent search and reported through Bishop Funke of failure of results. At Bremen, where the name of Van de Walle exists, they tried to find, if possible, some connection with Rosier Levering's wife, but in vain."

"From Mulheim on the Rhur, Rev. Heber writes of not being able to discover anything desired for and that their church registers do not go beyond the year of 1713."

"From Gemen it is reported, that no trace can be found there, as church records commenced after the dates named, but the reporter says: "the name of Lefering is still existing here, but only in Catholic families."

So the search was pursued from month to month, urged by my letters. Looking for "footprints in the sands of time," which were known to be more than two centuries old, was confessedly, a cold scent, but my earnest desire to find some track left by Rosier, taxed my ingenuity in guessing his retreat and in submitting questions to stimulate the searchers. In other towns and places than those named, search was instituted; in Brunen, in the old city of Leyden, in Holland, where the wife of Wigard was said by him to have been born, as well, the Historical Society of Frankfort on the Main, was inquired of, without any good results, and the city of Essen was appealed to, but her church records began only in 1695.

I kept before those employed an almost stereotyped charge, viz: "I make the quest for *Rosier* Levering and his *nativity* paramount to all other inquiry." My hope centered on Gemen, so I urged Rev. Zurcher to further effort, and to secure the most eminent skill there.

In November 1882 the Rev. Clemen, of Gemen, learned and informed that a preacher who had left that city many years before, had carried with him a record older than any volume in his archives. I pressed him to get possession of that book, and stimulated the hunt by promise of extra compensation, and suggested that the aid of the "church master" be enlisted.

In January 1883 more than a year after the seeking commenced, I was happily surprised by a letter from Rev. Zurcher, saying: "only some lines in haste, I have been waiting an answer from the Rev. Clemen at Gemen, and this morning I received a report, with authentic extracts from the old register found, which will be extremely interesting to you and your family, but I have no time now to translate and send them to you. Father

Rosier is often mentioned in the extracts, but I discover in reading nothing of his nativity. The extracts furnish ample evidence and knowledge of your family connections as you have stated them.

I am informed that one Dietrich Henry Levering died some years ago, 90 years old. He was a veteran of the Napoleon wars of 1813–15, and was the father of Franz Levering now living at Gemen."

While I have abridged this official or certified report of extracts from the old church record in editing my correspondence in this behalf and its results, it is due perhaps, that I copy it in full, in this paper, though I may not consume time in reading all of it.

In the Church books of the Evangelical Parish at Gemen, Germany, are found the following inscriptions concerning the family Levering or Lefering. Latin records interpreted.

The abstract consists of 19 items, with foot notes, as follow:

PRESBYTERY
OF THE
EVANGELICAL PARISH
AT GEMEN.

1674.

No. 1. Sunday Oculi, of the year '74, for the first time is proclaimed John Wigard Levering, Rosier's son, with the chaste virgin Magdalena Bokers from Essen.

NOTE.—Oculi, Fourth Sunday before Easter in 1674, was March 22nd, according to the Churchman's Almanac by Wm. Allen Whitworth M. A. published in London in 1882. JOHN LEVERING.

1675.

No. 2. Anno 1675, on the 16th of January, the parents Wigman, Rosier and Magdalena Bokers have caused their young female child to be brought to holy baptism.

Witnesses, Godfather's and Godmothers were: ANNE DE WALLE, daughter of the Bramfrow*, ANNE SOPHIA BOKERS and ERNDT ROSIER.

The child was given the name, ANNA SOPHIA.

1677.

No. 3. On the 21st Sunday after Trinity for the first time proclaimed, Eberhard Lefering (Rosier's son) with Mechtold Schmulling, Gerhard's daughter.

1678.

No. 4. The parents Enerdt Rosier and Mechtold Schmulling, have brought their young son to holy baptism.

Witnesses had been the Right Honorable Earl and Lord. LORD HERMANN OTTO, EARL OF LIMBURG AND BRUNKHORST, GERDT SCHMULLING AND ANNA FORK.

The name of the child was HERMANN OTTO.

ANNO 1680 — APRIL 14.

No. 5. The parents, Mester Enert Levering and Mechelt Schmulling, have caused their little daughter to be brought to holy baptism.

Witnesses had been the wife of the pastor, MARGARETA SCHOLLER, ANNA TILIK AND MATNISS TILIK.

The child was given the name of ANNA MARGARETA GERDRUT.

ANNO 1681 — OCTOBER 19.

No. 6. The Rev. Bonnihenius, pastor at the place, baptized the little son of the parents Enert Levering and Mechelt Scmulling.

Witnesses had been WIGERT LEVERING, BRIMO BOLYEN AND ELIZABETH LEVERING.

The childs name was ROSIER WENSALL.

ANNO 1683 — NOVEMBER 12.

No. 7. The parents Master Enert Levering and Mechelt Schmuelling have caused to be brought to holy baptism both of their children, one son and one daughter.

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*A dealer in wares I am informed by a German linguist of Philadelphia.—J. L.

Witnesses for the little son had been WILLIAM LEVERING, JOHN ROBERT AND ANNA CATHERINE SMULLING and for the little daughter EUGE SMULLING, ALCHE. LEVERING and HENRY GUMBRING.

The name of the little son was WILLIAM JOHN DEITRICH, the little daughter ANNA ELSHEN.

ANNO 1686 — FEBRUARY 24.

No. 8. The parents Mester Enert Levering and Mechelt Schmulling have caused both their children, whom God had given them at once, to be brought to holy baptism.

Witnesses had been SOPHIA FRANK NOTELIK, FRAU SIBILLA TOERMAN, ENGE TEMPELESMANN, BURGOMASTER BERENDT NILANT AND JOHN HENRY SMULLING.

Names of the children ANNA SOPHIA AND GERTRUT SIBLLLA.

ANNO 1687 — APRIL 26.

No. 9. The parents as Enert Levering have caused to be brought to holy baptism their little son.

Witnesses were ARNDT POLLHOFF, DIERCH LEIDECKER AND ANNA ELIZABETH NILANT.

The child's name was DIETRICH ARNHOLDT.

ANNO 1688 — MAY 17.

No. 10. The parents as Mr. William Levering and Grete Nilant had caused to be brought to holy baptism their little son.

Witnesses had been BERNDT NILANDT, MR. ENERDT LEVERING AND LIZABETH LEVERING.

The child's name, ROSIER GERHARDT.

ANNO 1689 — FEBRUARY 6.

No. 11. The parents as Enerdt and Mechelt Schmulling, have caused to be brought to holy baptism their young daughter.

Witnesses were, MARGARETA LUNING, wife of the pastor, MARGARETA NILANDT AND BERNDT TILKIN.

The child's name, CATARINA ELIZABETH.

Anno 1692—June 20.

No. 12. The parents as William Leverink and Maria Velts have caused to be brought to holy baptism their little daughter.

Witnesses were Berndt Schmulling, Mechelf Schmulling and Clara Kufferschmidt.

Name of the child, Elschen Christina Gertrudt.

Anno 1693—June 23.

No. 13. The parents William Levering and Maria Velts have caused to be brought to holy baptism their little son.

Witnesses were William Viger, Ian Dirich Brunner and Anna Sibilla Kufferschmidt.

The child's name, William Dirich.

Anno 1695—March 17.

No. 14. William Rosier has sent his young daughter to holy baptism.

The child's name, Florentina Lizabeth.

Anno 1696—October 28.

No. 15. Wilman Rosier has brought his little son to holy baptism.

The child's name is Ian Daniel.

Anno 1698—September 21.

No. 16. Wilhelm Rosier and his wife Mary caused their little daughter to be baptized at home.

Witnesses were the Right-achte, Miss Sophie Charlotte, Miss Weida and John Weber.

The child's name Charlotte Meida.

(The following ante date former items; but succeed them in the abstract.—J. L.):

Anno 1662 — October 6.

No. 17. Has Rosier sent his child to be baptized.

The godmothers Alschen Grametings and Elsche Scherenbergs.

The child's name (continuation is failing, says the abstractor).

(It is a provoking circumstance that the only item of recorded evidence found, that Rosier himself sent a child to baptism, should have the name obliterated. It could not have been Wigard, as he was married 12 years later in the 23d year of his age. It could have been Gerhard and he have attained 22½ years of age when he emigrated with Wigard in 1685. It may have been William, or more probably, one of the daughters, Alche or Elizabeth, as godmothers only appeared. In all other cases reported the statement whether son or daughter, is noted. It is observable also that no wife or mother is mentioned.

As this extract is of a record many years prior to others copied, it may be that the formula then used differed from later years.)

John Levering.

Anno 1669 — September 27.

No. 18. Berendt Nilandt and Anna de Walle have caused to be brought to holy baptism their little son.

Witnesses were the burgomaster Gerdt Nilandt, Henry Nilandt, and Jeneke de Walle.

The name of the child, Gerhard William.

Anno 1671 — June 17.

No. 19. Berndt Nilant and Anna Fork, married couple, have caused to be brought to baptism their little daughter.

Witnesses were Anne Heistekamp, Aechl Rosier and Gerdt Schmitt.

The child's name was Anna Elizabeth.

Died.

1709 — January 3 — Wilhelm Leverink.
1711 — September 5 — Eberhard Leverink.

For correctness and verbally copy of extracts.

HUGO LUHL, *Churchmester.*

Gemen, January 12, 1883.

Certified: Clemen, *Pastor.*

(Foot notes by Hugo Luhl, Churchmaster.)

"From a comparison of the notices of proclamations of marriages, of births and respective baptisms it results with certainty that

The names of Lefering, Levering and Rosier, are equal.

The names of Wigard, Wigman and Wigert, are equal.

The names of Eferhard, Enerdt and Enert, are equal, farther—

The names of Wilhelm, Willmen and William, are equal.

That Wigard, Eferhard and Wilhelm Levering, Elizabeth Levering and Alche Lefering or Alche Rosier, were—all five—brothers and sisters.

That Eferhard Lefering had 9 children, 4 sons and 5 daughters and among them twice, twins.

Wilhelm Lefering was married twice, the first time with Grete Nilant, the second time with Maria Velts.

That Anna de Walle and Anna Fork was the same person and that a kindred relation existed between her and the wife of old Rosier Levering, born Van de Walle, because Anna de Walle with Anna Sophia Bockers and Enerdt Rosier were godmothers and godfather by Wigard Rosier.

In every case there must have existed a kindred relation between the burgomester Berndt Nilandt such as there is with brothers and sisters-in-law and the family Levering because he (No. 10) was assisting as godfather by the baptism of the child Rosier Gerhardt.

It is to be remembered that the register of baptisms of the Evangelical Parish here—Gemen—begins with the year 1661 and reach till 1700, and from that time were failing until 1734. Up from this year until now they are complete."

It is noticeable that church master Luhl names "five brothers and sisters" as comprising the offspring of Rosier Levering. He omits Gerhard, manifestly, because no item of record was found in which he was named as an actor. In item 10 of the abstracts, William appears to have named a son for him and his father, as *Rosier Gerhardt*, and in number 18, Berndt Nilant names a son *Gerhard William*.

From the foregoing records we may safely infer that the tradition which placed Rosier within the pale of the Baptist church is not proven. By item number 17, we learn that "Rosier sent his child to be baptized," which allied him to the "Presbytery of the Evangelical church," whose archives contain the record.

It is unfortunate that item 17 of "Anno 1662, Oct. 6." omits the name of the mother of the child. In all others the "maiden" name is preserved and noted.

It would have been particularly gratifying, to have found the name of Elizabeth Van de Walle added as confirmatory of Rosier's identity.

There appears an indiscriminate use of names and of spelling names. In one baptismal service the daughter of Rosier appears as Alche Levering, in another as Alchie Rosier without adding the surname Levering.

Very much the same practice as to parents' Christian names becoming surnames for the children, as still obtains in the "Land of the Midnight Sun."

After securing these authenticated annals of the ancestors and finding them destitute of any indication of Rosier's nativity, it seemed discouraging to make further pursuit for the main want.

In further correspondence it was explained, that religious refugees, such as father Rosier, were con-

sidered in Germany as men who had renounced their native country forever, and were accepted as citizens where they had settled, hence, the place of nativity was not recorded in the several promulgations made, nor was it usual to do so, either in civil or ecclesiastical acts where the parties were citizens.

Church records commenced in Germany voluntarily and were under no legal control. Any pastor could inscribe the fact of an ecclesiastical act as a marriage or baptism, or the occurrence of a death in his congregation at his pleasure. It was in view of this gratuitous service that a preacher on leaving Gemen, had carried off a volume of records which I was instrumental in recovering to them. It is worthy of remark that persons of rank and distinction were interested participants with the families in the performance of rites named.

We observe that some discrepancies of dates exist, as between Wigard's family register and the church records given. This, I account for, as resulting from imperfect memory of Wigard. His family Bible was not obtained until after he reached America, probably after the year 1700. It was printed in 1691. In relating his family annals to the scribe who wrote the register his memory of dates was failing.

I have mentioned the existence of a Levering, or Lefering family in Gemen. This proved to be Franz Levering, the son of Dietrich Henry who had died a few years before. He was employed as a Weaver-master, or as we would designate it, a superintendent in a manufacturing establishment. He had a wife and six children. This information was obtained from Rev. Clemen, also from churchmaster Hugo Luhl.

To draw once more the long divergent family lines together, I made the first advance toward recognition, in a note written to this Levering on January 11th, 1883, as follows:

LA FAYETTE, IND.

Franz Levering, Esq., Gemen, Germany:

I have been gratified to learn through my friend Rev. Zurcher of Schuders, in Canton Graubunden, Switzerland, by whom I send this, that you are a resident of the ancient city in which my primogenitor, Wigard Levering was born. He emigrated to this country in 1685 of which we have evidence through his family register written in his Bible which is still preserved, and by other records which still exist in this country.

It is unquestionable that you and I are branches of one vine. Rosier the father of Wigard, whose name is given in the Bible register named. That you are of the descendants which have continuously bound our family name to the old city while we, after almost two centuries of growth from the enterprising twigs of the old vine who came to, the then new country, have become a numerous family.

We have a history of the descendants of Wigard and Gerhard, his brother, comprising more than 2000 names, for which we are indebted to a member of the family, who, after years of research produced a valuable record of which we, as family are proud.

Accept this letter as a greeting. I reach my hand to you in the name of our pioneers, over the lapse of two centuries of time, and across the leagues of land and ocean with as many good wishes as there are miles between us, and ask that we, at least, symbolize a family reunion which I trust may be better cemented by the intercourse of coming years and that some day the re-union may be real in the everlasting city where we shall meet, not as strangers. Feel assured that I will be glad to hear from you.

Though we may speak and write in different language, the kindly offices of mutual friends will serve us to understand each other. My friend Zurcher will please translate this into German upon this paper and transmit it. Yours fraternally,

JOHN LEVERING.

To this I received response as follows:

GEMEN 28, JANUARY 1883.

Herr Mr. Levering:

We have been very agreeably surprised by the letter through Pastor Zurcher and pleased to hear from you.

Will cheerfully comply with your wishes in regard to information about our family that I can give, and at the same time we extend to you our hands across the ocean, to heartily shake with you as a true member of our family.

Certificates of baptisms, etc., have been made out from church records of many of our ancestors and have been sent to Pastor Zurcher who will forward them to you. After you have examined these papers you will certainly be convinced of our mutual relationship.

In addition I will state to you that the family here is not so numerous as it is in America. Myself and family consists of wife and six children, four boys and two girls, and we are all the living members of the family here.

We are all very healthy and hardy. The oldest boy is fourteen years old. I am working as master, or superintendent of a mechanical weaving establishment of Luhl & Sons, here.

I have been in the employ of this firm for 20 years past.

The earnings in this country are very small. I get 25 Groschen (52 cents) per day.

In compliance with your request I have directed these few lines to you, and I hope I may hear from you again very soon.

Yours Very Respectfully,

FRANZ LEVERING.

As may be expected I favored Franz with my photograph after receipt of his epistle, asking for his in exchange. Instead, he sent to me a photo of the old castle in the suburbs of Gemen, which for many generations was the dwelling and rendezvous of the governing lord of the manor and had been occupied by Lord Hermann Otto, who exercised that authority at the time he appeared as godfather at the baptism of the child of Enerdt Levering in 1678.

Notwithstanding the apparent success in obtaining authenticated copies of records, which substantiated the

earliest records in this country I suffered disappointment for want of more information of Rosier, so I renewed the pursuit.

In a letter subsequently written to Rev. Zurcher, it was stated: "You have learned from my letters that the birthplace of Rosier is my desideratum. I would give five pounds sterling for recorded evidence of the *nativity* of father *Rosier*. Then, if his birth ante-dated all local records I would abandon pursuit."

Thus persuaded, Rev. Zurcher renewed his efforts, writing to competent historians who were possessed of local knowledge and learning. The services of the Burgomaster at Camen, where records existed, were employed, as also the well known Rev. Jaccard, at Zurich, who examined records without success and kindly, wrote: "The name Rosier Levering is placed upon the orders of the day to keep watch for information." Rev. Zurcher procured publications on religious persecutions and French Emigration, in the 17th century in hope of finding some clew.

While this pursuit was followed, the Rev. Clemen of Gemen, kindly wrote that he was examining an old manuscript of several hundred pages, entitled the "history of oppressions" which the church there had suffered since the conclusion of peace, at Munster, in 1644, hoping in that to find some names, and possibly a trace of Rosier Levering.

Because the name of Van de Walle was reported from Brunen, the Rev. Greven was interested to examine for name of Rosier Levering, but found no trace.

While this line of inquiry was followed, I urged Franz Levering to join in the search. Induced him to try the graveyards for some monumental pointers to the

object of our quest and on receiving word from him that the family homestead of two centuries ago was still standing in Gemen, I had him apply to the custodian of their civil records of deeds, to learn whether Rosier had been a free-holder.

As a preliminary step to this, I asked what the probable cost of such search would be, stating that I wished for examination of records from 1640 to 1675 and to know whether Rosier's *nativity* was stated in any deed if found.

After three letters, I extorted a suggestion of 30 marks (say $7) as the probable cost. On providing this, I received prompt reply, that nothing could be found of Rosier Levering, as they had no such records beyond, or earlier than 1793. More than a century after my designated term had ended.

While I had a decided opinion of the transaction, no doubt the officer regarded the employment as a *feas*ible undertaking.

Entertaining a desire to see how the *old homestead* as well the *town* of *Gemen* and *family* of *Franz Levering* looked, I caused a photographer to be employed to take pictures of the three which are now exhibited. In the photo of Franz Levering with wife and six children, appears the lost and found record book which I requested him to borrow for the purpose.

In view of Rev. Zurcher's search in French histories, in my own reading I discovered a statement which I made known to him in letter January 12, 1884, (two years after beginning the search) as follows:

"Referring to your efforts to find trace of Rosier Levering in some history of the French refugees I am discouraged by recent reading of an interesting paper upon the French Huguenots, written by Rev. Kitchen

of Christ's Church, Oxford. He says, in brief, that from 1625 to 1650 was the period of their material prosperity. That under Louis XIV. their condition was waned. In 1657 they were forbidden to hold colloquies. In 1659 they were to hold no more synods. That between 1657 and 1685 about 520 of their churches were broken up. That during this period, while thousands yielded to oppression and bribery, other thousands fled from the land. That the emigration began in 1666 and went on for over fifty years, the thriftiest citizens of France escaping from their inhospitable fatherland.

"In view of the fact that Rosier Levering was in Germany earlier than 1650 and that the principal flow of emigration began in 1666, I am impressed that any published history found will not cover the date of Rosier's expatriation, and that your labor in that direction will be in vain."

While I have not secured much authenticated European history of the Levering Family I feel that I have exhausted the field of inquiry in the supposed places where the footprints should be found. In my first letter to Rev. Zurcher, written in January 1882 I stated, in concluding the long epistle:

"The bound volume of the Levering Family is before me now. I hope to make a prefixed edition and let future generations provide the supplement. If I do not succeed in building upon the original end of our family history, the story of my *efforts* to do it must be of some interest."

I hope I have so interested you.

Reading of Letters and Papers.

The President: — We have a paper written by Hon. Horatio Gates Jones, of Philadelphia. Mr. Allen Levering, from Mount Gilead, will read a letter from Mr. Jones.

PHILADELPHIA, PA., JULY 18, 1891.

DEAR SIR: — I send you to-day a large photograph of myself, per express. You can use it at the Reunion and retain it until September and then return it to me at 133 South 5th St., Philadelphia, Pa.

I have just heard from Col. John Levering and am satisfied you will all be pleased with his address. Mine don't suit me at all, but I am not well. I stayed home all yesterday and feel very weak now. Gladly would I be with you, but I know I dare not venture so far at my time of life and during the hot weather. I hope you will all have a good time. Am sorry there is no telephone (or long telephone connections). If there was, you might hear my voice. Give my tenderest regards to all who have heard and inquire for me. You can print a card and place it over my photo, saying this is the likeness of "Senator" Jones, of Philadelphia, author of the history of the "Levering Family." Yours truly,

HORATIO GATES JONES.

TO HON. ALLEN LEVERING, Mt. Gilead, Ohio.

Mr. Frank O. Levering, of Mt. Vernon, read the paper contributed by Hon. Horatio Gates Jones.

Having been requested to make an address about the history of the Levering family in America, on this occasion, I regret to say that my absence at my summer home in Rhode Island will prevent me from being present, and hence beg leave to send this paper, which I trust will satisfy the friends who will meet at the reunion. It is but proper to say that in my book "The Levering Family," published in 1858, all that I know about the

Family has been said. New facts have been discovered about their European history by Col. John Levering, of Lafayette, Indiana, whose discoveries have, by him, been made known to you. My book being now out of print, it shall be my endeavor to give a brief sketch of those who came to America prior to August 1685, chiefly however of Wigard Levering and his posterity, as my esteemed friend Hon. Allen Levering will no doubt give a full account of his ancestor, Gerhard Levering, and his posterity.

The oldest son of Rosier Levering, whom we have always called Wigard Levering, was, according to recent discoveries made by my esteemed friend and relative, Col. John Levering, really named *John* Wigard Levering, but as he was known here only as Wigard, we shall so continue to call him.

It appears that he was married in 1674 to Magdalena Bokers, of Essen, Germany. Wigard and his family, and his brother Gerhard, were brought over by the agents of the Frankfort Company, and settled at Germantown, near Philadelphia, where they began their career. They remained there until 1691, when Wigard and his family settled in Roxborough, then a township of Roxborough, in the County of Philadelphia, about 3 miles from Germantown, on a farm containing 200 acres of land, and in 1697 he bought 300 acres more, adjoining his first purchase, so that he became a large landed proprietor, and proved to be a man of considerable wisdom, His brother Gerhard in 1692 bought 100 acres of land next to his brother Wigard's first purchase, from John Jennett, but in 1730 sold it, and since that date it has been impossible to gain any accurate information where he went, or in what business he was engaged; nor do we know the name of his wife, except that it is men-

tioned in his deed of conveyance; in that she is called Mary.

Both of these brothers were engaged in honorable business pursuits, and were no doubt cultivators of the soil; yeomen as they were then called. In those days every emigrant had some employment. They were farmers, carpenters and joiners, or smiths, and for many years these several trades or occupations seem to have been engaged in by the Leverings in Roxborough, and were continued in various branches of the family, and always with an average degree of success.

In Roxborough and Manayunk (formerly part of Roxborough) some of the land which Wigard bought in 1691 and 1697, is still occupied by his descendants bearing the name of Levering, and the house in which this paper is written is on a part of the land once owned by our distinguished ancestor Wigard Levering.

Being myself a lawyer, it is perhaps proper for me here to state that Wigard Levering, my ancestor, had a very high appreciation of the legal services of attorneys in his day. It appears that the Frankfort Company made a claim against him for quite a large sum of money, for having lent him at Wesel to pay his debts there, 6 pounds and 4 shillings, and for the transportation of himself and family, 57 pounds, 18 shillings, and 11 pence; but Wigard employed all the attorneys, who obtained judgment against the said Frankfort Company for 32 pounds, 16 shillings and 10 pence. Mr. Pastorius, the agent of the company, appealed the case to the Executive Council, but what the result was we know nothing, but presume that our ancestor was victorious.

Since the death of Wigard Levering in 1745, most of his descendants have lived in Roxborough, in the city of Philadelphia, and have been engaged in various

honorable pursuits, nor did any leave the paternal homestead, until 1787–8, when some of them went to Baltimore, in Maryland, where they entered the mercantile business, and their descendants are at this day occupying high positions of honor and trust both in private and public. One of them, Joshua Levering, a very prominent Baptist, has rendered great service to John Hopkins University, by erecting a building for the Christian Association, and also by generous donations to various societies of his church. Others left Baltimore for Illinois, Missouri and other western states, and have been very prosperous.

Col. John Levering (whose father, Abraham Levering, was a native of Roxborough, afterward resident of Lower Merion in Montgomery County, Pa.) removed to the west (Cincinnati, O.) in 1849, and near Lafayette in 1850, and in January 1856 *to* Lafayette, where he has lived since. The Colonel is a real-estate and loan broker. He was followed to Indiana by his twin brother William H. Levering, in November 1851, and by his parents and other brothers and sister, in 1854. William H., his brother, is deeply interested in the Sunday school work and is known throughout the whole country for his wonderful success in his work.

Others of the descendants of Wigard Levering have attained positions of honor in various places: one George W. Riggs, of the firm of Corcoran & Riggs, was one of the most prominent bankers in the country, and another, whose wife was a descendant of Wigard Levering, Francis A. Drexel, of the firm of Drexel & Bro. of Philadelphia, was a successful banker, and the firm is known both in Europe and America. Another person who attained a high position as a poet and statesman, George H. Boker, of Philadelphia, was our Minis-

ter to Constantinople and Russia, and his name is held in high esteem.

In Roxborough we have had for many years as a member of our city council, Charles Thomson Jones, a gentleman who occupied high honor in the councils and also as an inspector of the Eastern Penitentiary and manager of the county prison, and as a Justice of the Peace; another, his brother Nathan Levering Jones, was for many years President of our city gas works, and a merchant of high honor and renown; while the youngest brother, Horatio Gates Jones, who writes this paper, was for eight years a senator in the state of Pennsylvania, and while there fought with great energy in favor of the doctrine of Religious Liberty, maintaining that no one who believed in the fourth commandment of the decalogue, should be punished for working on the first day of the week. Although defeated in his efforts, he now lives to state that the position which he advocated, although himself a believer in the first day, was the correct doctrine of the Christian religion. Another of these was Anthony D. Levering, who for several years was a representative of the Legislature of Pennsylvania, where he was highly honored by all who associated with him.

It may also be stated here that during the war of the Revolution, many of the Leverings were in the army. Jacob and John Levering two of the sons of Abraham, who lived on Green Lane now Manayunk, were very active. Jacob acted as spy for the American Army, and often visited the city of Philadelphia, while it was occupied by the British, in the plain garb of a farmer. Once he was arrested, and the enemy were about to hang him, as they supposed him to be Major John Levering his brother, to whom he gave valuable

information, which he had obtained while in Philadelphia. The Major was in the Pennsylvania Line, and was at the battle of Trenton and Princeton. He was also in the war of 1812, and belonged to a company called the "Silver Grays." He was the Grandfather of Col. John Levering, of Lafayette. Another brother, named Anthony, was also in the Revolution. Aaron Levering of Baltimore, was Captain of the Independent Blues, and was at the battle of North Point in 1814. In 1843 he was a member of the Legislature of Maryland.

During the late Civil War many from Roxborough were in the Union Army. A rifle company was organized in which several of the descendants of Wigard Levering were to be found. The Captain was Anthony D. Levering, the first Lieutenant was Horatio Gates Jones, and his brother Charles Thompson Jones was Quartermaster. His son Charles Thompson Jones Jr., Maurice M. Levering, and Charles E. Levering were privates.

Another Levering, Andrew, son of Jacob, a merchant of Philadelphia, enlisted as a private, became a lieutenant, and at length was a member of the staff of General Alfred Sully. Col. John Levering of Lafayette, Indiana, was also in the army, and served with great honor and distinction. In 1861, he was designated by Governor Morton and commissioned by President Lincoln as Quartermaster with rank of captain, and assigned to the staff of General J. J. Reynolds, afterward with General Rosecrans; then was on the staff of General A. A. Humphrey until November 1862, and was then ordered to report to General Reynolds in Tennessee, and in May 1863 was appointed by President Lincoln as Assistant Adjutant General with rank of Major and assigned to Reynolds Division of 14th Army Corps.

In December 1863 was ordered with General Reynolds to New Orleans, and was there Adjutant General of the 19th Army Corps. In January 1865 he went with General Reynolds to Little Rock, Ark., as Adjutant General of the Department of Arkansas and of the 7th Army Corps, with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. On March 2, 1865 he was commissioned by the President as Colonel U. S. Vols. General Reynolds in a report to the War Department, speaks of Colonel Levering as an officer of exceptionable habits, and as Adjutant General he has distinguished himself, as well in the Army of the Cumberland, and Department of the Gulf.

In a paper like this it is impossible to give any detail of the doings of the Leverings of America in their various vocations. The early ones never attained any distinction as scholars but they appreciated the value and importance of education.

A grandson of Wigard, named William, in the year 1748, founded a school in Roxborough, which still exists, and gave the land on which the house was erected. It is called the Levering School. Most of the Leverings in Roxborough were either farmers, carpenters or smiths, and one kept the first Inn in the Township, which was built in 1731 and it is still—although not out of the family—used as an Inn, and is called the Leverington Hotel. At this place was held the first Post-office in the Township, known as Roxborough and the first Post-Master was Aaron Levering, but in 1831 the name was changed to Leverington, the only one at that time, so called, in the United States. The first Post-Master under that name, was Robert F. Levering. The only other Post-office named Levering—except one in Emmet County, Michigan—is that in Knox County,

Ohio, which was established October 25, 1836 when John Levering was appointed Post-Master.

As to the religion of the first emigrants, we know very little. No doubt they were a pious people and in Europe, they were Huguenots, or Lutherans. The discoveries of Col. John Levering show that their children were always brought to holy baptism in which the parents seemed to have been firm believers. When they settled in Germantown the friends of Quakers were most numerous, the Mennonists were also quite active and in a few years the Tunkers or German Baptists organized a church of which the celebrated Christopher Sower was a member, and the Rev. Alexander Max was the minister. Subsequently, other churches were formed, and the Moravians frequently had service, which perhaps led John Levering—a grandson of Gerhard Levering, to join the church.

When the Leverings, Wigard and Gerhard, settled in Roxborough there was no church there of any kind, and if they were disposed to attend church, they had to travel to Philadelphia or to Germantown. At a very early date, say about 1754 and 1756, several of the Leverings lived there, who belonged to the Baptist Church in the city of Philadelphia, which was organized in 1698. But in Roxborough no church was formed until August 26, 1789, and this was the Roxborough Baptist Church. Of the 32 constituent members, eleven were named Levering, and two were named Levering before they were married. Its first two deacons bore the name of Levering, and ten persons named Levering have been deacons. The first deacon was Abraham Levering, and there has always been a continued succession of deacons who have been his lineal descendants. There are now 23 persons named Levering who are

members of the church. The land on which the meeting house was built, was given by Nathan and Sarah Levering, the maternal grandparents of the writer of this paper. The Leverings have been members of the various churches, which now exist. Some, many I may say, have been Baptist or Lutherans, Moravians, Roman Catholics, Methodists, Episcopalians or Dutch Reformed.

Some Leverings have been ministers; two were Baptist clergymen and among the posterity of Gerhard, there is one who is a Bishop of the Moravian Church, I refer to the Right Reverend Joseph Mortimer Levering, of Bethlehem, Pa. Several have been famous as musicians, and several have been poets, one of these latter was Miss Salle C. Levering of Philadelphia, whose effusions were beautiful; she died at an early age. Another was Robert E. H. Levering who resided at Cincinnati, Ohio.

But I have written enough, and shall leave the history of Gerhard Levering and his posterity to his well-known descendant, my worthy friend Hon. Allen Levering of Mt. Gilead, Ohio, who I believe is fully able to perform the duty assigned to him on this memorable occasion.

Before I close this paper, permit me to add that there was one peculiarity about the early Leverings; this is the fact that they all married; there was scarcely a bachelor to be found among them. I state this for the information of all present on this occasion.

My advice is, that if there are any bachelors present to-day they should follow the example of their worthy ancestors and preserve the customs which prevailed among them in the early history of this country.

Copy of a letter written by Mrs. C. M. Latch, aged over eighty years, read by her son-in-law, William H. Levering, of Lafayette, Ind.

A Revolutionary Incident.

PHILADELPHIA, PA., May 24, 1891.

DEAR WILL:—You ask me for some information respecting Jacob Levering, the Spy for General Washington, during the Revolution. I cannot recall dates, but at the time when the British army held possession of Philadelphia, Jacob was at home in Roxboro, and took the produce of the farm into the city to market. That gave him an opportunity to hear a great deal of news, for he went to the house of a man named G—, a tory, whose wife was a distant relative of the Leverings. While there one day it was thought best to take Mrs. G. and the young children out to Jacob's father's, to board while the soldiers were in the city. He had to stay over night, and slept with a lad, a son of G's.

That night the British officers had a meeting at G's house—for it was a place where they met; and young G. arose, went to the door, listened at the key-hole, heard all their plans, came to bed again, and told Jacob all their plans,—one of which was, to go to Red Bank, surround and make prisoners of a small army we had there. The next day Jacob loaded up his live stock and took them to his father's. When he arrived he was much surprised to find the Major there, at home on a furlough;—the Major was his brother John, our grandfather. After the horses were put into the stable, he said to John, Come up into the hay mow I have something to tell you; and when there, told him all he had heard.

After supper, and when prayers were over, they all retired. About 11 o'clock, the Major—our grandfather—arose quietly, went down Greene Lane to the Schuykill river, rowed over in a boat, went to Uncle Anthony Levering's house, and aroused him from his bed. Upon learning his want of a horse, that he might go at once to Valley Forge, where Washington was encamped, Uncle said, "Go to the kitchen and get my saddle and bridle, put on my overcoat, then go to the stable and get my riding horse, and go as fast as thee can,—I don't care if thee has to ride him to death, so thee gets there." He started at full speed up the river road, having about 15 miles to go.

Arrived at the camp, he passed the guards, went to the stone mansion, met Blue Billy at the foot of the stair, who passed him up; he opened the door and on the floor lay Washington, La Fayette, Knox and Greene.

Washington arose quickly, and grasping his hand said, "How glad I am to see you Major, Have you any news?" "Yes," he answered, "Then come into the next room," Washington said. He then gave W. all the information Jacob had sent. Gen. Washington went to the corner of the room and knelt in silent prayer for about ten minutes; and then arose and said, "Major can you go to"—some place, the name of which I forget. He said, "Yes, if my horse can." "Then" said the General "if your horse is tired, you are tired, I will send some one else." He then bid them all good night and sped his way homeward;—and having put all things in place at Uncle Anthony's, he rode back over the Schuylkill, reached home, and quietly went to bed. I have often heard our grandfather tell of it, and he would say, "It was not by might nor by power that our victory was gained, but it was through prayer." And he always told, with much feeling, how reverently Washington knelt in prayer the night he carried Jacob's message to him at Valley Forge.

Adjourned to two o'clock P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Address delivered by Allen Levering on the "Life and Character of William Levering," with tracings of the history of his ancestors as far back as known and some incidents of his and other pioneer times in the Owl Creek Valley.

William Levering.

Mr. President, Relatives and Friends!

We are assembled to perpetuate the memory of our ancestors. Not as Egyptians, who, with profound reverence for their departed ancestors, embalmed their bodies and with solemn rite and ceremony perpetuated

their memory. Nor as the English, who with the same instinct seek to immortalize the titled nobility of their sires by emblazoning on shields and armorial devices the insignia of their title and achievements, but by lifting the mystic veil of time and disclosing their history. By so doing we embalm their noble lives and acts in our memory and engrave upon our hearts their fame and preserve to the latest time the chivalry of a long line of ancestry, who in the pureness of their character far outranked the numerical nobility of the old world.

Levering, that grand old name, the embodiment of respectability, uprightness, frugality, prosperity and morality, is certainly a name which we should all be proud to bear, and those through whose veins course the blood of the noble French Huguenots, who braved the tyranic dogmatisms of Roman Catholicism, who sought the hospitable shores of America to enjoy that freedom of conscience and thought which is the foundation of our grand Republic, and who have bequeathed to their posterity an example of industry, stability and honesty, unexcelled by that of *any* lineage traceable in the history of the human race, should feel a certain degree of pride in their ancestorage. Not indeed one of laudation, but one that should engender in the bosom of their descendants a desire to emulate their example and render themselves worthy to bear their illustrious name.

In tracing our history and collecting facts relative to certain of our ancestors for this reunion, the work has been divided and to me has been assigned the task of tracing or writing the history of my *own* grandfather, *William Levering*, and the ancestorage of his father as far back as is known, as William was the pioneer and

first one of the name, and the youngest of the three brothers, *Daniel*, *John* and *William Levering*, who settled in this beautiful and fertile section of the Owl Creek Valley.

William Levering, our grandfather, was born in New Jersey May 19th, 1780, and raised in Bedford Co., Pa., on his father's farm and from whom he learned the blacksmith trade. On November 2nd, 1802, he was married to Ruth Bryson, who was born at Valley Forge, Pa., February 11th, 1780. Her father's name was Archibald Bryson, who was born in Scotland in 1743, and his father having died when he was about 2 years old, and his mother afterwards marrying and moving to London, England, her brother, Robert Scott, took charge of him to raise and brought him to America in 1751, with his sister Julia, and neither were married. They lived a short time near Richmond, Va., then moved to Philadelphia, Pa., where his uncle was engaged in mercantile business, and became wealthy; but did not leave any of his money to Archibald as he left him before he was of age, going to Valley Forge, Pa., working in the Furnace, learning to make iron, and became a master workman and was married to Polly Hale, an English quakeress, a relative of Sir Matthew Hale, a Judge of the King's Bench of England. The Bryson and Scott families were related to Robert Bruce the Second, and King of Scotland; and were of the Nobility of Scotland, and very wealthy. Her father and mother lived at Valley Forge until her sister Rachael, brother David, and herself were born, and then moved to Bedford Co., Pa., where she and William Levering were married. They lived in a part of his father, Henry Levering's house and rented his farm; but desiring to have a farm and home of their own, he, with John Ackerman and Elder

John Cook, zealous members of the Old School Baptist Church, and at their Annual Church Associations that they would go from 20 to 50 miles away to attend, having learned at these Associations of the rich lands yet to be entered in the Owl Creek Valley, in the "Ohio country," as it was then called, and living in the same neighborhood, and acquainted and social friends and all desirous to own and provide homes for their children, decided to go and see that country before moving their families there. So in October, 1810, they started on horseback, carrying their money and change of clothing in leather portmanteaus that they strapped on their saddles, and when stopping over night placed them in care of the tavern-keeper. The distance was 340 miles, and they were about 8 days on the way, coming by Wheeling, Zanesville and Newark, to Mt. Vernon and Fredericktown, and to the Jersey settlement on south fork of Owl Creek, to which they had been directed by their church friends in Pennsylvania, and where James Lewis (who was born in Sussex Co., New Jersey, but after his marriage had moved to Washington Co., Pa.,) had been in 1805, and entered 1000 acres of the choicest lands in that valley, one-half mile east of what is now Luzern P. O., in Knox Co., O. A wild cherry tree now stands on Matthew Boner's farm, where he camped while selecting this large tract of land. On returning home he divided it among his children, who, in a few years, began to move there and improve it, and who were the Lewis, Boner, Bryant, and Conger families, members of the Old School Baptist Church. But here they were disappointed in finding all the best land entered. They were told that over on the North Fork of Owl Creek there was as good land yet to enter, and they returned to Fredericktown, where

Abner Ayers had built a double log cabin and was keeping a tavern, and he directed them by a bridle path, or Indian trail, (there being no laid-out roads) to the Mitchell settlement, where Francis and Joseph Mitchell had each a cabin on their half section of land now owned by Alfred Fish, Edward, Calvin, and John C. Levering, Thomas Mitchell having entered the one-fourth section where Riley Levering now lives. So the next quarter section west not entered was the one Mr. Ackerman took, he being the oldest, (then 50 years and was to have the first choice,) and is yet owned by members of his family. Elder Cook, being 42 years of age, had next choice, and took the adjoining quarter along the creek; and William Levering, then 30 years old, next west, all agreeing to locate together, as they were very warm and social friends. Francis Mitchell being a surveyor was with them, and gave them the boundary lines of each section of land that was then thickly covered with heavy timber. At this time Elder Stephen Cook owns and lives on his father's land; and Milton Levering, William's youngest son, owns and lives on his father's land entered at that time. So their children have been satisfied with their selections, and remain on the old farms, and are here to-day as old citizens of this vicinity—Elder Cook now in his 81st year, and Milton Levering in his 71st year.

The Pioneers being satisfied with their selection of land for their new homes, and it being necessary to hasten to the government land office, then located at Canton, they started the next morning, and on the way stopped for dinner at Greentown, in Richland Co., and about 12 miles south-east of now City of Mansfield, where the Delaware Indians lived, and a white man,

who had married an Indian squaw, was keeping a tavern. Among the principal Indians they saw there was Captain Pipe the chief, and Captain Montour, who belonged to the Delaware tribe, but had attended College at Cannonsburgh, Pa., and graduated and was a highly intellectual Indian and dressed then in an English blue broad cloth suit, and was large and fine looking, were talking about their Indian troubles and expected that there would be another war between the English and Americans. When Mr. Ackerman asked him who he would fight for, he answered, the one who pays me the most money. But sometime during the following year Tecumseh, the chief of the Shawnee tribe, visited the Delaware tribe here but failed to induce Captain Pipe, the chief, to join him in his efforts to make war on the white settlers, but did secure Captain Montour under promise to promote him to an office, and at the Battle of the Thames, in Canada, in October 1813, they were both killed.

They arrived at Canton November 2nd, 1810. The price they paid for each section was $300. $100 paid at the time of entering, and $100 each year. The patent deed is dated June 8th, 1812, signed by James Madison, President of the U. S., and Edward Tiffin, Commissioner of the General Land Office at Washington, D. C. It describes the lands as being "in the territory north-west of the Ohio and above the mouth of the Kentucky River."

We have learned that on their way coming and returning to Pennsylvania they often held religious meetings in the evenings, and on Sundays, where they stopped, Elder Cook doing the preaching, Mr. Levering (who was a member of the M. E. Church) the singing, and Mr. Ackerman taking a part in the exercises.

On returning home they began making arrangements to move their families here; but on August 26th, 1810, Wm. Levering's father having died from a stroke of apoplexy, he was compelled to remain to take care of his mother, and did until October 1816; but the next spring (1811) Mr. Ackerman started with his family, having employed Mr. Thomas Mitchell to clear a few acres and build a log cabin to live in before returning to Pennsylvania, and having but two horses and Wm. Blair and John Cook each having a horse, they joined teams with Mr. Ackerman, making a four-horse team, and came together, and each entered a quarter section of land. Mr. Blair next west of Wm. Levering and John Cook (son of Elder Cook) the third section west; Calvin Blair is now living on his father's piece, and Thos. Phillips on Mr. Cook's. And when each died, Wm. Blair and John Ogle moved their families from Pennsylvania near Warfordsburgh and neighbors there that fall of 1811 and found Benjamin Hart living on his land one-half mile west who came to them as they landed with a dotted piece of wood on fire swinging it to keep it burning; and at that time having no matches to start a fire, such favors were highly appreciated as social and friendly acts.

Daniel and his brother John Levering came in October 1811 from near Bedford in Bedford Co., Pa. Daniel bought Joseph and French Mitchell's improved farms and entered some other sections adjoining, and John the next quarter section west of John Cook's land (where James Thompson and Seymour Whitney now own and live) and entered for his brother Wm. Levering the farm that his son Nelson lives on now, (he made these entries in the Land Office at Canton, O., on Nov. 13, 1811,) but did not move their families until later.

Then came the Grahams, Reynolds, Rushes, etc., all from Bedford Co., Pa., and Washington Co., Md., near the town of Hancock on the Potomac River and about Warfordsburgh, Pa. In the fall of 1812 Elder Cook moved his family, and Wm. Levering in the fall of 1816. During William's stay on the old farm in Pennsylvania, by gathering wild grapes in the mountains, and mixing them with the apples and sweet cherries growing in abundance on the farm, and having a small still, made apple jack, apple brandy, cider oil, and cherry bounce; liquors that found ready sale, and in that way saved enough money to pay for the land his brother John had selected for him; but when the war of 1812 begun, the government was compelled to close all the branch land offices in Ohio and the West, and in January 1814 he went on horseback to Washington City to the General Land Office and paid for it all, and received his Patent Deed dated January 14th, 1814.

While in Washington he called on President James Madison, in the White House (that was burned Aug. 23rd of that year by the British General Ross and on his attack on Baltimore, Sept. 12th following was killed) who treated him very kindly, and asked many questions about the Ohio country, where said he, the Indians and the British are giving us so much trouble, that he was obliged to close all the land offices, but felt confident we would defeat the British armies very soon and our country would improve rapidly, and be equal, in a short time, to any of the older countries of Europe. He returned home very much elated over his trip, and meeting the President of the United States, and often told of it in social gatherings with his neighbors and friends, and how he took the tongs and lifted the partially burnt wood on the fire Irons when talking to

him just like any other man who was not the President. In 1815 he came to Ohio, and began clearing a piece on which to build a cabin, but the axe-handle bruising his hand, and starting a catarrh, he employed Benjamin Pitman to chop down all the timber 18 inches and under, clear and burn it off about 12 acres, and build a cabin 18 by 20 feet, intending to move his family into it the next year; but having the care of his mother in Pennsylvania, and she becoming old, and not wanting to leave the old home, he in the summer of 1816, made arrangements with Frederick Outcalt to move into the house, take care of his mother, pay the taxes, keep it in repair, etc., as he was to have it at her death for caring for her, but, as he had five boys: Allen, then over ten years old, Morgan 8, Morris 6, Nelson 3½ and David 1 year, (his oldest son Archibald dying when nearly two years old in Pennsylvania), he was anxious to havethem start in his new home, where the land was more fertile, and having his mother's consent; about the 1st of October, 1816, began packing a four horse wagon, with an old style English bed, and about the middle of the month started with four horse team and three milk cows. A neighbor, Mr. Abner Hess, hitched his two horse team ahead and helped them to the top of the Sidelinghill Mountain, where they all eat dinner together, as they had their provisions and cooking utensils with them, also bedding, and slept at night in the wagon, and the cows furnishing them with milk they boarded and camped on the way. In the afternoon they came to his wife's brother's house, David Bryson, who was packed and ready to start with his family, and also a Mr. Poorman and his family, and next morning all started together for their new homes in Ohio; coming by Bedford, Wheeling, and by the noted Wheeling

Hill, down which Major Samuel McCullough rode or leaped his horse, when pursued by the Indians in September 1777 while reenforcing Fort Henry, that stood on the bank of the Ohio River, above Wheeling Creek, that was being besieged by that renegade Simon Girty. The party separated at Zanesville, Mr. Bryson and Poorman going to Athens Co., O., where they had bought lands, and William to his farm in then Knox Co., but now in Morrow County, O., where they landed Nov. 5, 1816, and where his pioneer life and that of his family began. Before leaving Pennsylvania, he made each of his five boys an ax, which they prized highly, with which to chop and clear away the forest. David, then 15 months old, kep this for many years. They had then several neighbors, the Blairs, Harts, Ogles and his two old friends John Ackermann and Elder Cook, the latter having married his sister-in-law Rachael Bryson, and was his nearest neighbor; and all having moved there within four years, from about Waffordsburgh, Pa., (some four or five miles south from where he had lived, and where most of the early settlers in this part of the valley moved from) and having his two quarter sections of the land paid for, and money in hand, he began hiring more of his land cleared, feeling much encouraged in having a home of his own and for his children, but in the midst of their prosperity their eldest son, Allen, then past 11 years old, and who was very fond of horses and could manage and drive a team very well took sick, and his mother being a good nurse and doctor (as all these pioneer women and mothers were) began treating him but he grew worse, when his father went to Mt. Vernon to bring Dr. Burr to see him, who after inquiring the nature of his disease and condition said he could not help him and no use to go and see him; he returned with a sad heart bearing

that intelligence to his family who nursed him as best as they knew until Jan. 26, 1817, he died, and there being no place in the neighborhood set apart for burying the dead, no deaths having occured, he and his brother Daniel, (who had moved his family in 1813) selected what is now the Waterford Cemetery, where his remains lay, and the first one buried there and after dark as John Van Buskirk who made the coffin and lived where Shannon Levering lives did not get it done and to the house until sundown. This occurrence, at this time was a very sad affliction to them especially to his mother who could never become reconciled over his death as he was a very industrious and obedient son and dearly beloved by her. Being satisfied with their new home, they felt like bearing up under such trials, and the inconvenience of this new country, and the annoyance of wild animals, such as the black bear, gray wolves and wild cats; the most dangerous and destructive of them were the wolves. The government granted a bounty of $8.00 for an old wolf and $4.00 for a young wolf's scalp, and since they could pay their county taxes with scalps, many were slain. The Indian tribes here were the Delaware and Wyandot who often camped for a few days in the neighborhood in large numbers, 200 at one time on his farm where his son Nelson Levering lives. And one old chief, George Lyon, a son of the old Tom Lyon, and his son-in-law Williams and three or four other Indian families, built wigwams of poles covered with elm bark, on the run on this farm, running near that old elm tree that has stood at the forks of the road so long, holding the guide boards (that is known thousands of miles away in the west) on that farm, and lived there several winters—and one spring made some sugar—and the run is called George Run. These In-

dians gave them no trouble, except to beg some provisions. This old Tom Lyon would have Buckeye-wood ladles to sell, and came on a pony about once a year. He would not lie on a bed, but in the winter time by the fire-place and in summer in the barn. Said he was born where is now Easton, Pa., was at Gen. Braddock's defeat, July 9, 1755; then a boy, and after the battle of Fallen Timbers, in 1794, he carried a flag of truce to Gen. Anthony Wayne's camp, and before he started his Indian friends tried to discourage him in going. He said he was taken to Gen. Wayne's tent, where he was busy writing at his table, and did not look at him until he quit writing, when he sat beside him and putting his hand on his knee, said: "Well, what do you want?" I said, "Our squaws and pappooses you have taken as prisoners." "Well, you can have them," and he then ordered something for me to eat and said that he had some good fat meat to eat. He thought Wayne a great warrior. The last time he came was in the fall of 1832, when he showed the boys how to make a coon and wolf trap, that they had often asked him to show them before when there, until this time and then he said now boys all come, that little one too (meaning Milton then about 11 years old,) he said he was then very old, and he said 100 years old. And on leaving said Mr. Levering farewell my good friend I will come and see you again, when Mrs. Levering said to him, Mr. Lyon as you are so old and getting feeble we do not expect to see you here again (he claimed to be then over one hundred years old) but he said he would come again and as he had frequently said before when leaving the house, if any of our tribe or other Indians plan or prepare to injure or kill the white folks in this valley I will come and let you know in time to find a place of safety.

And then you must all go as soon as I tell you and let nobody know who told you about it.

He generally came alone when he stayed over night. One time in January he and an Indian named Dowdy came from Frederickstown together to near the house, when he made him go on to Mr. Abraham Blair's house, (to the shoemaker house he called it). Mr. Levering saw him coming and said: "Tom, who is that Indian staggering along over there?" He said, "Dowdy." "What is the matter with him?" "He drank too much whiskey, he bad Indian, he must go on. No, he not stay here with you to-night." "But it is dark and he will get lost and freeze to death to-night, go bring him here." "No, no, he too drunk, he bad Indian." "Then how do you feel?" "Oh, me not drunk; me don't drink much, and would not bring him to the house." Before bedtime the weather had become very cold, when Mr. Levering said: "Dowdy will be frozen to death by morning, then what will you do with him?" "Take him to big hollow tree, cut hole, put him in it."

Next morning they learned Dowdy was too drunk to find Mr. Blair's house and began calling for help, when Mr. John Ogle, a neighbor, heard him and took him to his house nearly frozen, and kept him over night.

It was said Tom would, at some places he stopped at, show a string of 99 white person's tongues and say he intended getting one more before he died, and would often scare the women and children, if there were no men in the house, as they did not know but he would take one of their tongues to make the number. But he never exhibited them at Mr. Levering's house or said anything about them. He belonged to the Delaware tribe. Captain Pipe, his chief, was in the settlement

and at Mr. Levering's house soon after he had moved into his *round Log Cabin*.

The first meeting house in this vicinity was built in 1818, where the Old School Baptist house stands now, on land donated by Elder John Cook, to be used by all denominations. Elder Cook had, in 1814, organized the Baptist Church at Benjamin Hart's house, and often preached there. This meeting house was built of round logs—the benches having no backs, except two for the old ladies,—and it was common to see persons there in the summer time barefooted. Mr. Levering could work at shoemaking and wore low cut shoes he had made and often no stockings. One bright Sabbath morning in July, it being very warm, several persons in the congregation became drowsy and sleepy during the preaching service, when Mr. Levering fell on the floor from his bench seat, and when getting up looked to see if Elder Cook who was preaching saw him, but as was his custom when preaching to look up over his congregation all the time, was looking steadily upwards. Afterwards Mr. Levering asked him if he saw him fall on the floor. He said no. Then said Mr. Levering: I fell once under your preaching and you did not know it.

The first school house was built near this church building in 1820. Lawrence Van Buskirk was the first teacher, and boarded among the different families. When at Mr. Levering's he obtained their son David's confidence and friendship (then about five years old) by running foot races with him. David says Mr. Van Buskirk ran or hopped on one foot, which he remembers and tells about it now with much pleasure, and that he then went to school with him next morning as his first day at school, when they run races coming home in the evening same way. In 1822 both buildings were

burned. The next school house was built on (William) or Mr. Levering's land near where is now John Ogle's residence. The Baptists built a new meeting house for themselves, on the same lot and where the present Baptist meeting house now stands near the cemetery, one and one-half miles west up the creek from Levering Post Office.

In this new school house William Cook (a son of Elder Cook) taught several terms, also did Lawrence Van Buskirk. In the summer of 1829 Miss Polly Rigdon taught the school and the first lady teacher in this part of the valley. She afterwards was married to Col. Vance, who kept a Tavern in Mt. Vernon, Ohio, where is now the Curtis House there on the square. The next summer Miss Mary B. Meldrum, an Irish girl, taught and was the last teacher, the district being changed, and the next school house built on lands now owned by Barton Lewis. During that winter of 1830 and 1831 Mr. Levering's oldest son, (living) Morgan, taught the school. That was his first term and he gave general satisfaction to parents and scholars. Miss Meldrum next taught in Waterford (Levering P. O.) where the late secretary William Windom's father (Hesechiah Windom) was living and attending the Daniel Levering flouring mill, and to her he first began going to school there. She afterwards was married to George Fry, a lawyer, and lived in Lexington, Ohio, where she died in a few years, lamented by all who knew her as she made warm friends of *all her* acquaintances.

The first public road layed out was the Johnstown, and derived its name from that town in Licking county, Ohio, where it was started and to run direct to Mansfield in Richland county, Ohio. The viewers who located it were General Enis, who lived in Troy Township,

Richland county, and Mr. Fishback, living in Huron county, Ohio. The surveyor (or engineer) was Jonathan Rhoads, who, in order to make the road on a direct line, as Mansfield was northeast from Johnstown, was running his Compass 14 degrees east of north which run it angling through the different farms. On reaching Mr. Levering's farm the line struck his southwest corner, where he and Mr. Ogle after two or three days controversy persuaded them to run it due north on their west lines until they crossed the Delaware and Mansfield road, where the village of Johnsville is now located, that ("Johnny Appleseed") Jonathan Chapman had blazed through several years before and had now become a public road, saying that road would be on a direct line from there to Mansfield. During this controversy they stopped at Mr. Levering's house, where they were most hospitably entertained by his family and in this manner accomplished their object. The road was continued from Johnsville due north to Ontario about 12 miles from Mr. Levering's farm, where any person going south on this road to Chesterville, Ohio, will readily observe its diagonal course to that place from this point.

In 1824 the road running along Owl Creek was surveyed and located and called the Mt. Vernon and Tiffin Road. Benjamin Sherrick of Washington Township, Crawford county, but now in Morrow county, Ohio, is the only one of the viewers I could learn the name of, and Chaney Hickman of Mt. Vernon, where the road started from, was the surveyor. They followed the windings of Owl Creek from Mt. Vernon as it angled through the different farms, except to keep on the highest lands until they came to Mr. Levering's farm where his son Nelson is living and where the Old Elm

tree yet stands, when they changed the line from following the creek and ran it more of a northwesternly course into Marion county where it stopped and intersected with other public roads leading into Tiffin, which road became the mail route for the Levering P. O. in 1837 but never was carried on a stage line. Mr. Sherrick stopped over Sunday with Mr. Levering and both being zealous members of the Methodist Church, and each good singers, may account for his stopping with him. We learn he was a tall, stout built man, and wore a long red home-made wammus coat, same kind of a shirt, a black wool hat and was barefooted.

In 1825 Wm. Levering built a horse-power grist-mill on his upper farm, near the old elm tree on this new road, to be used in dry weather, as they at that time were not accustomed to using steam-power. Chas. Post and Asher Taylor built it for $112.00 and made the burrs of nigger head stones that were gotten near Bellville, O. The building was of round logs, one high story and shed for the horse-power wheel, and could make good wheat and buckwheat flour and corn meal. Two horses could run it, but four made it grind much faster, and three bushel an hour was its capacity.

Persons bringing grain to the mill hitched their teams and helped do their own grinding; and during a dry season it was run day and night. Mr. Levering and his son Morris were the millers. At this time there was Daniel Levering's Mill at Waterford, the Williams Mill at Fredericktown, the Douglas Mill, one and a half miles this side of Mt. Vernon, and the Norton & Davis Mills in that town, and people came 8 or 10 miles to the horse-mill, and Mr. Levering would haul flour to Mt. Vernon and Gambier (where they were building Kenyon College) and sell it. He run it until 1839, when more

grist-mills were built on the creek, and sold the machinery to Milton Brown for $65.00, (it cost about $400 to build it,) who moved it to the plains in Marion Co., and run it for several years.

In 1828 William built a saw-mill on the creek on the same farm. Wm. Shauck did the mill-wright work. It had the old "flutter wheel" and did not saw very fast; during a wet time it was run day and night. In 1837 it was remodeled, and David Shaler and Benjamin Busby did the work, putting in the latest improved undershot water wheel; it was run by his sons Morgan, Nelson and David; then Newton, his nephew, Henry Levering's son (who has been in California for the last 39 years and came from there a few days ago to attend the Reunion), he living now in Siskeyon Co., Orofino P. O.; then by Henry Hosler and Jacob Snyder, and last by Zephiniah Mitchell, when it was worn out in 1856. The timber of the country made very large saw logs, 4, 5 and 6 feet in diameter, were of poplar and black walnut, and often were sawed into building and fencing boards, as there was but little demand for this now valuable choice lumber.

In 1826, he having when living in Pennsylvania at his father's house and quite a young man, about 19 years old, joined the Methodist Episcopal Church, by his request Rev. Crawford of the Mt. Vernon Circuit came and organized a class in the School-house on his land and made him the class leader; and as there were few members, William paid the quarterage for the whole class for several years. Rev. Bocamp was the other preacher on the Circuit, but an older man, and did not often preach there; Crawford was a young man, rode horseback, wore Shanny Valley overalls that buttoned

together on each side, and when stopping to preach would hang them on the fence to dry, as the roads were so very muddy at that time. They carried the old-fashioned saddle-bags filled with Bibles and hymn-books to supply the members. The next preachers on the Circuit were Beacham and Cooper, then Haven; but as the principal denominations were Baptist and Presbyterian, this class did not increase in membership and they quit coming. Then Anthony Banning of Mt. Vernon came occasionally and preached for them, but in 1834 Samuel Allen, a singer, (a relative of Gen. Ethan Allen of New Hampshire and of old Fort Ticonderoga notoriety) then living at Mt. Gilead, O., and John T. Killum, a singer, came and joined it to the Gilead Circuit, and then the meetings were held in Mr. Levering's house in the winter, and in the summer time in his large barn, which he had built in 1830, John Talmage doing the carpenter work. Wm. Levering had benches or seats made for seating the congregation at these meetings that he kept in a shed when not used for meetings. He built his house in 1823 and '24 of brick—the brick were made in the old crude or primitive way by Samuel Oldfield and John Walsh; they mixed the clay by having oxen tramp on it in a ring-hole dug in the ground, as they had no mill to grind and mix it as now in our day; they also made the lime by making a large log-heap and mixing the stone through it and burned it, and burned the brick by making a kiln when setting them, with arches for putting in the fire-wood, and from one-fourth to one-third would not be burned hard enough to use and were lost. John Swadner and Peter Zulliman layed up the walls and John Van Buskirk done the carpenter or wood-work, fitting and dressing the lumber with saw and plane with his own hands, having no

machinery to do it by like at the present time, so that over a year's time was taken from the beginning to finishing the house, which was well done and is now occupied by his son Milton Levering and his family. Being thus comfortably prepared for accommodating the brethren and congregation, the Methodist ministers, or preachers, came regularly to his house and held meetings, and after Samuel Allen came James Wilson (an Irishman) and Mr. Bennett, but the membership of the class did not increase very fast until after these preachers came, Silas Ensign and Zephanire Bell. Mr. Ensign was very fond of debating on church doctrines with the ministers of the Cambpellites or Disciple Church and Universalists, or any other church holding doctrines differing from the Methodist Episcopal Church, and during the time he was on this Circuit he had a very interesting discussion with one of the Mormon Church preachers, near Bellville, O., where they were holding their church meetings and creating some interest among the people living there in their church doctrines and some had become its members, but after this discussion it was generally admitted by the large congregation present that the Mormon preacher utterly failed to satisfactorily answer Rev. Ensign's arguments made against their church doctrines and they soon ceased holding any more meetings there. At that time the church's general headquarters was at Kirkland, near the city of Cleveland, O., where they took some of these new members living near Bellville, and that went from there on farther west with them.

Zephanire Bell was *generally* known wherever he went to as a very loud and enthusiastic singer and a revivalist, and if living now would be an evangelist like Moody or Sankey, for it was a very common occurrence

for him where he was stopping over night, in the evening to walk the floor in the house or on the porch and sing until he became so happy he would begin shouting and cause all the Methodists or other religious persons present to feel happy. If at a Quarterly or Camp Meeting he would often begin the meeting by rising in the pulpit and sing some new Methodist hymn that would draw the whole congregation near to him while singing it, and during the time they were on the Circuit the membership increased very much.

About this time Samuel Galliher had moved on his farm adjoining Mr. Levering's on the south from Lowdon county, Va., and was as zealous a Methodist as Mr. Levering. He had him appointed the Class Leader and as he proved to be so efficient was kept in that position until his death in 1859. They too became very confiding and the warmest of friends during their life-time. They would often go far away to Quarterly Meetings and to the Church Conference. When the Conference was held in Mansfield and Bishop Hedding presided they attended, and among the many interesting incidents of this Conference was getting up one morning at five o'clock to hear a sermon preached that I remember his telling of as the sweetest sermon he ever heard, as the points were as short and rich as pie crust.

During the time of this Church or Class Organization in 1826 at Mr. Levering's solicitation until the building of the Methodist Meeting House here in Waterford (Levering P. O.) in 1844 (to which he and Mr. Galliher were liberal contributors and the main pillars until their death), Mr. Levering's house was generally known in the neighborhood and on the Circuit as a Methodist Tavern and all Methodists cordially wel-

comed, and the Methodist preachers and the Circuit Rider a welcome visitor at all times, so that they made it one of their headquarters to meet each other on church affairs and it was a frequent occurrence for two, three, and four to meet there at one time and stay over night, and generally all good singers they would learn each other any new hymns they knew and often sang in this way until bed-time, and pleasantly entertained the family and themselves. John H. Powers, a native of Kentucky, was the first Presiding Elder on this Gilead Circuit after this Class became attached to it in 1834 and would meet the preachers on the near-by Circuits at Mr. Levering's house by appointment to attend to church matters. Some of these preachers rode poor looking horses. On one of Samuel P. Shaw's trips (afterwards founder of the Shaw University in Tennessee) he rode a very poor horse, and in the morning when Mr. Levering's boys were bringing it from the stable and laughing at its condition, Mr. Shaw noticing it said: "Brother Levering, can you tell me what makes my horse look so poor in flesh?" He said: "I think, Brother Shaw, he is too much Priest-ridden," which remark caused all the party to laugh very heartily. After this time when a preacher came riding a poor looking horse the boys would say, here is another Priest-ridden horse, and as they had the care of them would ride the nice looking horses to the creek to water them, and if no one was looking would ride back to the stable the very longest way to get their pay in this way for taking care of them. Now as this is some of the Pioneer history of this Church in this valley that my grandfather, William Levering, had so much to do with, I have thought to give it would be interesting with his other Pioneer labors in this valley. His wife and several

of his family were members of this Class and his son Milton Levering and his family are to-day. In 1820 he visited his mother on the old farm in Pennsylvania and was gone from home about four weeks, going there on horseback; then again after her death on January 4th, 1822, this time to sell the Old Homestead of 300 acres, which he did to Jacob Smith for $500.00, who, strange to say, willed it to his son Henry in 1837, and he to his son Geo. F. Smith in 1876, who is now living in the same house built by William Levering's father Henry in 1790, who I met in October 1885 when visiting the old farm and kindly showed me through the old house that looked in good comfortable condition to live in, and took me to the graves of my great-grandfather and mother, Henry and Nancy Levering, buried side by side in a one-fourth acre lot on the old farm that Henry had set apart and reserved for burial purposes and counted twenty graves, but no head-stones with an inscription on to tell the names of the persons buried there.

In 1824 he returned back to Pennsylvania to make a final settlement with Mr. Smith for the old farm and the other business connected with settling the estate, going again on horseback as that was yet the general way people travelled, was gone about four weeks and the last time he saw the old homestead in Pennsylvania, all his interests being now centered with his family in their Ohio home, that had become much more improved than when he moved his family there, and the farm was raising them an abundance to live on and all felt satisfied to live in their new home.

In 1828 he became an equal partner with his nephew, John Levering (his brother Daniel's son), and started the first general dry goods store, then close to the Levering flouring mill, and first store in this part of

the valley, and where the Levering Post Office was established in 1837, but only continued a partner for two years then selling his interest to his partner when John continued the business for himself until his health failed him in 1866.

Having tried to give you William Levering's ancestry, and, in rather an irregular order, the principal parts of his active business life in connection with some of the pioneer incidents in this Owl Creek valley that he was connected with until 1840, when he had reached his sixtieth anniversary, and then feeling satisfied that his prosperity had created a sufficient competency to comfortably keep himself and his highly respected life companion and the joy of his declining life, the remainder of their natural lifetime, and to assist their children in beginning active business for themselves, he began retiring from active business and let his children do the hard labor, he acting as counselor for them, and as he had been active in all the leading departments, towit: religious, educational, agricultural, mechanical and commercial, and very successful, it made his counsel to them very desirable, and now in conclusion I will give his social habits in his retirement to his death and a brief account of his family.

He became a great Bible student and general reader of the current events of the day, enjoyed the society of his neighbors and friends who called to see him and that of his children and grandchildren, and it was my good fortune to spend much of my time from 8 to 14 years old in his company and that of grandmother and aunts, Nancy and Polley, and uncle Milton when they were all at the old home, which was so pleasant to me that it was difficult to get me to return to my father's and mother's house again.

Many a day have we spent fishing with the hook and line along Owl Creek from his lane to Mr. Rambo's mill-dam, and we generally caught a sufficient number of fish for one meal at one time, or before returning home, and during this time spent in his company have heard him tell much of his pioneer history, the same that I have been repeating to-day. I will not detain you much longer, only to tell of his firm adherence to principles of honesty and justice. His rule for loaning his money was at six per cent. interest, and the borrower to pay the taxes. He very seldom asked the borrower to give personal security, for if he thought the borrower dishonest or unable to pay the money and interest when due he would not loan his money to him. He was not in favor of lawsuits and only had four or five in his life, and these before a Justice Court to collect some claims in dispute and in those it was proven that he was in the right. He never attended his county courts except as a juror or witness. He was temperate in all his habits and when seventy (70) years old decided he could get along as well without using tobacco and never more used it.

In political matters he voted and acted with the democratic party, was a great admirer of Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and especially James Monroe and his ideas of internal improvements, and an advocate of the national turnpikes and the Ohio canals, also admired General Jackson and his policy and veto of the National Bank Charter Bill, and of Van Buren and James K. Polk. But during President Pierce's administration and upon the repeal of the Missouri Compromise, he not being in favor of the further extension of slavery, but rather of its destruction, in 1856 voted the republican ticket, and during the remainder of his life voted that party

ticket, which may be accounted for on account of grandmother being raised a Quaker and always adhered to their religious belief that slavery was wrong and often said it would bring some terrible calamity on our country. Before she died (in June 1855, aged 75 years) she said she believed the day was not far distant when the slaves would be made free men, and in less than ten years after her death they were made free, and the war of the Union was a very great and sad calamity on our country, just as she had predicted would happen in both cases.

Her death was a very sad affliction to him, as they had lived so agreeably together (since their marriage on November 2nd, 1802, nearly fifty-three years.) He would often say men should take counsel of their wives, for here is Ruth who has much better judgment in many things than I have. And right here I desire to say that her pioneer life and her family history are subjects sufficient for a lengthy and interesting address that all her neighbors would enjoy to hear, and if another Reunion of our family is held next year I suggest that the principal part of the exercises be devoted to giving the pioneer life and times of our grandmothers, and the wives of the three pioneers whose history we give you this afternoon, and of their children who have departed for that better land.

His children supposed they could be company for him and keep him from becoming lonely, and used their best efforts in that way, but they being much younger in years than he, yet it did not prove they could become like him, as they were then living in the present state of business affairs and he in the past, and after four years' time of living together (in March 1859) he was married to Mrs. Lucinda Dawson, a widow for a number of years of Turner Dawson, who was born in Lowdon county,

Virginia, and a most excellent woman, and had lived in Waterford many years after her husband's death and raised her children and was well known to him for several years before and proved to be an agreeable companion as they lived happily together until his death, September 4th, 1864, in the eighty-fifth year of his age, having enjoyed very good health and memory until his last sickness, which was only of few days' duration. When informed by his family physician that he could not help him, he said: "Very well, I am ready and willing to leave this world for a happier one," and then he died in peace and was buried beside the partner of his youth and his son Allen in yonder cemetery.

Mrs. (Dawson) Levering, the companion of his last days on earth, survived him about seven years, and is buried in Salem Church cemetery near Luzern P. O., Knox county, Ohio, beside the husband of her early lifetime.

Mr. Levering made a will, dated May 28th, 1864, and appointed his son David executor. He divided his property equally among his children, making his last wife equal with them, which gave general satisfaction and peace and harmony and due respect for each other has always existed between them. His will is on record in the Probate Court of Morrow county at Mt. Gilead, Ohio, proven September 19th, 1864, witnessed by Welcome Hercudeen and John Blair, his near neighbors.

This is a partial history of William Levering's ancestry and life work in this world, and as one of the Pioneers in this valley, with some of the incidents of the inconveniences and hardships they were compelled to endure in clearing away the heavy forest timber to prepare the soil, that we, now their children and grandchildren, can enjoy its bounteous production and with much

less than half the labor and inconveniences to ourselves. Yet we readily see the hardships of their pioneer life, that made their bodies strong and healthy, that they all lived long and enjoyed their old age without any physical pain or suffering and died happy and peaceful deaths, that cannot be said as much of the present generation.

Address by John C. Levering, subject:

Daniel Levering.

In giving you the history of my grandfather you will easily realize that there was a deal of difficulty in gathering up the items relating to the history of a man who died so long ago. He died in 1820. His sons are all dead, and with one or two exceptions I am the oldest living representative of his family. He was born in the State of New Jersey on the 3d of February, 1764. He moved with his father to Bedford Co., Pa., to a place called Whips Cove, where he learned and worked at blacksmithing with his father. At the age of 24 years he married Mary Karney. She was of Irish descent, and the daughter of William Karney. It was said by my oldest uncle that her father was a full brother of Gen. Karney, of Irish notoriety. That is all we know of her history. By this union there was born to them eight children, one daughter and seven sons, and all but one lived to a good old age. One (William) died in Bedford Co., Pa., at the age of five years. When married, Daniel Levering had but little of this world's goods—a horse and his clothes—but by years of constant toil and good management he succeeded in securing considerable property, and for those times was con-

sidered well off. Being desirous of procuring a home for each of his children, he, in company with his brother John, started on horseback across the Allegheny mountains and came to this valley. He had an old-fashioned riding whip, and this is the remains of it (showing whip). It has been kept in the family ever since. It was the only weapon he carried and was the only one he needed. His first purchase of land was this quarter section from the Government, and the deed was signed by James Madison, who was then President of the United States, and Edward Tiffin was Commissioner of the General Land Office at Canton, O. The consideration is not stated in the deed, as it was obtained upon a certificate from the General Land Office. His second purchase was the northeast quarter of Section 4, Twp. 18, Range 19. This land was purchased of Joseph Mitchell and wife Martha, the consideration being $640; on this farm he died, and the land is now owned by Edward Levering and his brother. His next purchase was the southeast and northwest quarters of Section 3, Twp. 18, Range 19, purchased from John Mitchell and his wife Mary, the consideration being $2,000; that is this quarter section west of us. He then owned three quarters of this section No. 3. He also purchased the northwest quarter section 4, upon which he located his daughter Grace, then married to William Rambo. Now I will just read a short extract from a letter written by his son and addressed to myself. He says: "Your circular giving notice of the reunion of the Levering families now living to be held on the 6th day of August 1891 has this day come to hand. Accept my thanks for your kindness in sending me the notice. It will be a very suitable day for such an occasion, as the 6th day of August 1821 was my first appearance in the old log cabin which was built in

1814 by the Levering family—a cabin with only one room below and a ladder to climb upstairs. The ceiling above head upstairs was clapboards with wait poles laid on top to keep the wind from blowing the roof off. In this cabin my good father and mother lived eighteen years. In this cabin your mother spun our wool two years, that made us little fellows our woolen shirts and our full linsey for pants." After purchasing his lands he returned to his family in Bedford Co., Pa., and in the early spring of 1813 he, with all of his family, started for his western home with a four-horse team hitched to one of those old-fashioned Pennsylvania wagons, in which was packed such household goods as they would most need in their new western home, where they arrived on the 10th of April, 1813.

The wagon would hold almost as much as a warehouse. He brought two chairs and such other household goods as he thought they would need. One of the chairs now occupied by the President. He had his money all in silver, and when his neighbors gathered in to see him start he offered a neighbor woman, by the name of Idleman, a box of money if she would carry it home. The reason he did not settle near Mt. Vernon was that the land was military land, and disputes and difficulties would sometimes arise about the titles to such lands. Another reason was that having been used to a mountainous country he thought the country here rather flat and wet and without good springs. So he came across the Greenville treaty line, which is about one mile distant. In the fall of 1813 he and his neighbors built a block house on his farm for protection against the Indians, who were troublesome during the war with England, Daniel Levering was a man of remarkable public spirit and energy. He set about at

once to make such improvements as the new country needed. His first enterprise was the building of a saw-mill, the first one in this township, and in 1815 he erected the first grist-mill in this region of country. He built a mill with two run of burrs; the burrs he worked out of a large granite stone or nigger-head, about one-half mile west from here. The balance of the stone as he left it is still to be seen there to-day. He also built the first blacksmith's shop, and he was an ingenious mechanic, doing the mill-wright work for his mills and making everything necessary to be wrought from wood, iron or stone. I remember my father having a set of pewter spoons; he said his father made the moulds they were run in. After the war of 1812–14 the Indians were peaceable and friendly. They used to come to his place in great numbers and remain over night; sometimes filling the house, barn and blacksmith shop, having him to grind their tomahawks and butcher knives and do other kinds of work, and as payment he would receive their buckskins, which were often made into trousers and worn by the pioneers.

The pioneers were very dependent upon each other. It was not uncommon for them to spend two or three weeks in the spring or early summer every day, except Sunday, at log rollings or cabin raisings, and assist each other in every way possible. We, to-day, do not realize how much we owe to those old sturdy pioneers who felled the forests, cleared the land, put up the buildings, founded churches and schools, thus placing us upon a higher plane of civilization. Some of the older men will remember the Owl Creek Bank. My grandfather had some money, but he wouldn't put his money in that bank, he put it in his saddle-bags. The early pioneers had no meeting houses or places of public worship, but

preaching was held at the individual houses by the various denominations there represented. Daniel Levering and his wife were Presbyterians, and frequently had preaching at his house by James Cunningham and James Scott, two pioneer preachers of that denomination. His daughter and five of his sons were members of the Presbyterian Church when they died; one son was a Methodist. The first Presbyterian Church in this section was erected about three and a half miles southwest from here, known as the Harmony Church, and the means and material for the building was furnished largely by this family. The lumber was sawed on this farm by Henry Levering. In 1847 the Presbyterian Church in this village was erected, and the majority of the material and means was furnished by the same family. Daniel Levering was a very strict observer of the sabbath day. As an incident: one Sunday morning hearing a disturbance with his hogs that slept near by in the woods, he went quietly to see what was wrong; upon a near approach he saw a large black bear trying to procure a breakfast. The swine were all thoroughly aroused, and when bruin would make an attack on one of them it would squeal, and all the rest would come to its rescue and bruin would have to retreat. After watching them as long as he cared to, instead of going for his gun to shoot the bear on the sabbath day, he made himself known and the bear left for the deep forest, Mr. Levering thinking he would get him some other day.

His eldest son, Henry Levering, was the first white man married in this township. He taught school in 1814, and also taught the first singing school here. The family were all good singers and good musicians, Nathan, Charles and Noah, Noah was a leader in sing-

ing and John was an excellent bass singer. John and Noah were instrumental in having a postal route established from Zanesville to Tiffin, and became surety to the Department that the route would be a paying one. The post-office was established in 1836 and was called "Leverings," in honor of John and Noah Levering. Noah Levering sold the land and laid out the village of Waterford. All of the name of Levering in the United States are related to each other, and it is doubtful if there is another family that can say the same. There are some characteristics that belong to the Levering family. One of them is to adhere rigidly to what they believe to be right. They would do almost anything for a friend, but have no use for a person in whom they have no confidence.

I remember when a boy hearing Benjamin Corwin (a cousin of Tom Corwin of political notoriety) telling my father how Daniel Levering helped him out of the slough of despondency. Mr. Corwin said he was sitting on a log in his clearing, out of supplies, entirely out of money and completely discouraged, and how to provide for his dependent family was more than he knew. Then Daniel Levering, who was out hunting deer on horseback, rode up to him, and seeing something was wrong inquired what the trouble was. Mr. Corwin after relating his embarrassed condition, wished he was back where he came from. Mr. Levering told him that would never do, and asked him how much it would take to put him on his feet. He said he thought if he had ten dollars he could pull through. Mr. Levering going down into the till of his pantaloons produced the desired amount, telling him if he ever got able to return it all right, and if not, go ahead and be a man. Mr. Corwin said thus encouraged he went ahead,

and he owed his present surroundings and comfortable home to that hospitable act of Daniel Levering.

After seven years of very active life in his new home, he was afflicted with a cancer in his breast, from which he died. He was buried under a sweet apple tree in the corner of his orchard, which was of his own planting, in the place of his own selection. The farm, at his death, came into the possession of his son Noah, who sold some land adjoining to the trustees of the Methodist Church. He reserved a portion of the land for a burial ground for the family connections in this plat, where his brother William and wife were buried. The remains of his wife also rest by his side, and five of his children, with their numerous connections, are interred in the same plat of ground. Daniel Levering died December 31, 1820, at the age of fifty-six years, in the prime of life, leaving his footprints on the sands of time.

Reading of Letters.

The President: — The following letter from Hon. C. Delano will now be read:

LAKE HOME, MT. VERNON, OHIO, April 29th, 1891.

Charles B. Levering:

Referring with thanks to your invitation to be present at a Reunion of the Levering Family on the 6th of August, 1891, I beg to assure you that I shall accept the same and be present, if circumstances that are now unknown to me, do not prevent.

I have been acquainted with some of the family since 1819, I think, when John Levering attended a small Grist-mill on Owl Creek, about two miles west of Batemantown. The high character and influence of the family justify a careful presentation of its history.

With Respect I am Truly

C. DELANO.

A short sketch of John Levering, one of the Pioneers of Owl Creek valley, by Fernando W. Levering.

John Levering.

John Levering was born January 1st, 1768, in the State of New Jersey. He removed to Bedford county, Pennsylvania, with his father when he was 17 years old, and learned the blacksmith trade with his father.

He was a large man, fully six feet in height, robust and muscular. He married Margaret Karney in Bedford county, Pennsylvania, where they had a family of eight children. Two died young.

In the spring of 1812 he, in company with his brother Daniel, came to this valley, crossing the Allegheny mountains on horseback, and after purchasing a quarter section of land in this Owl Creek valley near the *old elm tree*, he returned to his home in Pennsylvania.

In the spring of 1818 he moved with most of his family to his new western home, accompanied by Christopher Sipe, who had married his daughter Mary, who also located in this valley and reared a large family.

Mr. Levering reared a cabin on his land and a log blacksmith shop, and worked at his trade when he had work of that kind to do. At other times he worked at clearing up his farm. He was identified with the improvement of the country, sharing the privations of pioneer life, and was considered one of the solid men of the country.

He lived on this farm until the death of his wife which occurred November 22nd, 1832. He then broke up house keeping and made his home with his daughter, Margaret Foster, about three miles northwest of Johns-

ville, in Bloomfield township, now Morrow county, Ohio, where he died January 17th, 1835. His remains were laid to rest in this valley in the cemetery at the Baptist church, conveyed there by Wm. Williams in one of those old fashioned Pennsylvania wagons, with four horses attached, the driver riding the saddle horse and driving with a single line. His descendants have all left this valley, the most of them going West. The Sipe family are the only ones remaining in Ohio.

Original Poem by Mrs. Amanda L. Crocker, daughter of William Levering of Sand Lake, Mich. Dedicated to the Levering Reunion.

Our Story.

BY MRS. AMANDA L. CROCKER.

Of all the stories told to you and me,
Tales of the land, or tales of the sea,
There are none, I ween, on which we dwell
So fondly as those our *own* may tell.

And, tho' sweetest songs are still unsung,
And clearest notes remain unrung,
And grandest stories are yet untold,
And undiscovered the brightest gold,

It may be, in waking my muse to-day,
I may touch a chord to sound alway,
Somewhere, somehow, a thought may come
To fold white wings in a warm heart-home.

There, a story; our own in rhyme to be;
Its scarlet chapter from over the sea,
Its golden pages this side the foam:
Rung on the key-note, "Home, sweet home."

When vict'ries are won, and laurels prest
On th' victor's brow and jewelled breast
The world, at once, measures his fame,
And anxiously seeks th' ancestor's name.

And, if forefathers ever come to the fore,
It is when a descendant makes a score,
Or when, perchance, some awful wrong
Crops out where better ought to belong.

Then the world wags its head; 'tis understood.
His father's were so; 'twas in the blood.
And the world is right we presume; very well!
Now give us the story our blood tells.

Hark! the opening chapter from over the sea
Triumphantly comes to you and to me;
Our life-current, pulsing sweetly to-day,
Has much that is noble and true to say.

Columbia has heard the plan of praise
Sung for the heroes in darker days,
When those to whom by blood we belong
Had the psalms of David for battle songs.

The Right and Reform they, tireless, strove,
Upheld by Him whose name is Love.
At Canas, before their enemy's tent,
Down on their knees, these Huguenots went.

The enemy shouted, "They surrender; Aha!"
The leader knew better. A moment in awe
He stood; then said, "you'll fight hard to-day;
Behold these Huguenots, kneeling to pray!"

Those were the days when the lilies of France
Where crimsoned by blood and torn by the lance:
Where the brave Coligny fought long and well,
Until on the mad mob's sword he fell.

There it was that the sixty-eighth psalm
Went up to the ear of the Great I Am;
"Let God arise!" Sacred, grand old song!
The battle-cry of the Huguenot throng.

Yea, our blood, throbbing thro' decades of years,
Scarcely ever aweary, undaunted by fears,
Tells of a vigorous, proud old name
Wreathed in the glory of martyrdom's flame.

And we, to-day, breathe Columbian air,
Secure and happy in homes so fair;
Rest with freedom because o'er the tide
Of the mighty old ocean, the Levering pride,

And honor, and love of Liberty came;
Establishing here the grand old name.
Aye! the very ground on which you stand
Was sealed by the touch of a Levering's hand.

This side the water they, too, were the same,
Defenders of right; winning the name
Of God-fearing, home-loving people; and so
Rocked Liberty's cradle in th' long ago.

To-day, with reverence, we name the men
Who honored the name of Levering then;
Jonathan, Jacob and John, noble ones,
Are counted in with Liberty's sons.

And when our proud flag, in sixty-one,
Was menaced, insulted, and war begun,
The first volunteer to say, "here I am,"
And give his all to protect Uncle Sam,

Was a Levering, too; Andrew his name,
And from St. Paul, Minnesota, he came.
Yes, blood tells: from this we can see
Our name is ever along with the free.

When Owl Creek valley was densely wild,
And echoed the shout of the red man's child,
When the block-house, strong for refuge, stood,
Came a trio, a Levering brotherhood.

To roll back the forest with sturdy hand,
To till and to toil for the wealth of the land,
To bear the hardships of pioneer life —
To build a home for child and wife.

And now, broad acres of well-tilled land
Lie, worthy the brush of an angel's hand:
Thus you will find from sea to sea
Our name in the lists of Industry.

Then, born to be jolly, we're second to none
For a good gala time, under the sun;
We're lovers of art, of song, and of love,
And love one another. Can you ask more?

And, no matter which side of the water his birth,
A Levering's a Levering all over the earth;
And nothing so sure in this world of woes
As this: what a Levering knows, *he knows*.

But, worthy and staunch the grand old name
We bear! Do nothing to tarnish its fame,
Or wound or blemish the family tree
So nobly cherished for you and me.

SHELBY, MICH., July 14th, 1891.

Declamation by Nettie Levering. Subject: "The Old Home, with Father and Mother," by Mrs. Hattie F. Bell.

The Old Home, with Father and Mother.

BY MRS. HATTIE F. BELL.

There's one hallowed place in our childhood
  Where we ever feel free from ill —
Where the sweet, holy hush of the twilight
  Seems a whisper of "Peace, be still," —
While a fond mother's kind, gentle teachings,
  Fall lovingly then on our ears,
And a father's dear smile of affection
  Is a balm for all sorrows and tears.
Once severed from this, there is never another
That seems like the old home with father and mother.

Sometimes we grow tired of the old ways,
  And like robins that flit from the nest,
The world seems so smiling and sunny,
  We think its broad highway the best, —
So we leave a good-bye with the homestead,
  And fly out were gaiety sings,
But we find there's a world full of danger
  For poor little, unfledged wings.
But one path seems brighter to us than another —
The path that leads homeward to father and mother.

The years as they come up to meet us,
  May furrow our brows with their care,
But they cannot blot out from our memory
  The touch of a mother's kiss there:
And tho' time may reach out his old fingers,
  And weave in our hair silver thread,
Yet he never can mar our first blessing —
  A father's dear hand on our head.
These sweet thoughts still linger above every other,
When we think of the old home with father and mother.

Song: The Old House at Home.

Oh, the old house at home, where my forefathers dwelt,
Where a child at the feet of my mother I knelt,
Where she taught me the prayer, where she read me the page,
Which if infancy lisps is the solace of age:
My heart 'mid all changes wherever I roam,
Ne'er loses its love for the old house at home.

CHORUS: The old house at home, the old house at home,
My heart never changes for the old house at home.

'Twas not for its splendor that dwelling was dear,
'Twas not that the gay and the noble were near,
O'er the porch the wild rose and the woodbine entwined,
And the sweet-scented jessamine waved in the wind—
But dearer to me than proud turret or dome
Were the halls of my fathers the old house at home.

CHORUS.

But now the old house is no dwelling for me,
The home of a stranger henceforth it must be,
And ne'er shall I view it or rove as guest
O'er the evergreen fields which my father possessed.
Yet still in my slumbers sweet visions will come
Of the days that I passed at the old house at home.

CHORUS.

Reading of Letters.

Letter from Gen. George W. Morgan to Hon. John C. Levering.

SAULT STE. MARIE, MICH., July 21st, 1891.

My Dear Levering:

I have just reached here from Duluth, and find your kind note of the 18th instant. It was with pleasure that I looked forward to being present at the Levering Reunion on the 6th proximo, and am

greatly disappointed at not being able to be present on that grand and joyous occasion. I have known you for forty years, and have been well acquainted with several branches of the Levering family, and they were all worthy and patriotic people, who enjoyed, and deserved to enjoy, the confidence and respect of their fellow citizens. But I have known you better than any of them, the long years of unbroken friendship have only added to my respect and cordial regard for you.

When the sixth of August comes around, my thoughts and well wishes will be with the Leverings, and wishing them health, happiness and prosperity, I remain your friend,

GEORGE W. MORGAN.

Letter from the late Secretary Windom to Hon. John C. Levering.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 1890.

Hon. John C. Levering, Levering, O.

MY DEAR SIR:—Yours received in which you extend to me an invitation to be present at the Levering Family Reunion August 6th, which will indeed afford me great pleasure, since, although not born at Waterford, yet I spend many years of my boyhood in and near there, passing my childhood on my father's farm in the Quaker settlement one and a half miles east of Waterford, after which I worked with my friend, Mr. Burk, at tailoring and first began reading law. It has always been a delight to me, in passing to and fro from my home in Minnesota, when in the vicinity to take a drive through the beautiful valley of Owl Creek and revisit the home scenes of my childhood and to meet your Father, Uncle John Levering and other friends.

It will indeed delight me very much to be with you at that time and to meet some of my old friends although many, I suppose, are dead, yet I should like to meet their children, therefore you may expect me if not deterred by official business,

Yours most cordially,

WM. WINDOM.

Letter from A. Banning Norton, Dallas, Tex., to Hon. John C. Levering.

PORTLAND, OR., August 1, 1891.

John C. Levering, Esq., Levering P. O., Knox Co., O.

MY DEAR SIR:—I was greatly in hopes that I might be able to be present at the Reunion of the Levering Family on the banks of Owl Creek on the 6th August, 1891, and there meet with the Leverings and the descendants of the old pioneers of Knox, and talk with them of the days and men of the olden time, but I find my stay on the Pacific coast so prolonged as to render it impossible. Rest assured that it would have given me great pleasure to have attended, and my best wishes are with you all for a pleasant meeting, and for your success and prosperity individually and collectively. I bear in kind remembrance the Leverings and other pioneers, who cleared the way for the present generation on Owl Creek. They were "a hardy, free-born race, each man to fear a stranger." Men and women created for the purpose, and fully filling all the requirements of the times in which they lived. You have just cause to be proud of your ancestors. They were of sterling worth, undoubted courage, and should be held in high esteem for their integrity and virtue. At some future reunion I hope to be with you.

Very sincerely yours,

A. BANNING NORTON.

Letter from Mrs. Flora L. Hammer to Hon. John C. Levering.

PHILADELPHIA, PA., July 18th, 1891.

John C. Levering:

DEAR SIR:—I regret that I cannot participate in the exercises intended to increase our interest in the deeds and days of our forefathers, for such reunions produce a kind and happy feeling among kindred, foster the interchange of reminiscences, and recall to our minds the historical events that led to the immigration to the United States of our Huguenot ancestors.

But to attest, in a small way, my interest, I send you the photograph of John Levering, a descendant of Weigart Levering, and also the picture of my home where any of the Levering family would be warmly welcomed when on an Eastern pilgrimage.

I wish the Association could obtain that old certificate of the marriage of Catharina, daughter of Weigart Levering and Heinrich

Frey. This marriage took place in Germantown, Pa., in 1692, and was one of the earliest that took place in Pennsylvania. An account of how it came about was given in the Philadelphia *Public Ledger* of July 25th, 1890, from records furnished by Abram Cassel of Harleysville, Pa. He owns the certificate which I have seen.

I notice that the name of John seems to be a favorite and venerated one in the family. My grandfather and father were named John and there are innumerable other Johns within the Levering Book.

I resemble my Ohio relatives in that I have an honest pride in the name of "Levering." I could not name my daughter Levering, so I called her "Leverine," and I have one son named J. Levering. My father wished to name a street in Mt. Airy Levering, but recalling that there was one thus named and the law permitted no more he called it "Leverine" after my little daughter.

I am sorry that I cannot give you some useful information, perhaps I may be able to do so in the future. I often think when treading Leverington Cemetery, with *reverent footsteps*, *how much* unwritten history lies buried there; yet, in the words that Abraham Lincoln loved so well to quote—

> "We are the same our fathers have been,
> We see the same sights our fathers have seen;
> We drink the same stream and view the same sun,
> And run the same course our fathers have run."

Hoping the day may be enjoyed with all the heartiness that can be indulged in by a prosperous people, and with cordial greetings, though far away from my father's and my own family,

I am yours sincerely,

FLORA L. HAMMER.

3519 N. 22nd Str., Philadelphia, Pa.

P. S.—I would like the privilege of purchasing any souvenirs of the occasion if there will be any, also the new Family History when it appears.

Dr. Singrey's Address.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I have not got the vanity to suppose that I can cause the one-fourth part of this audience to hear what I may have to say on the present occasion. My remarks will be brief; they are of a historic nature, commencing with the second war for Independence — the war of 1812. My father and two of his brothers volunteered, and were behind the breast-works during the bombardment of Fort McHenry and the city of Baltimore. When I was a small boy he often took me on his knee and described it as he saw it on the memorable night that gave Francis Keys the opportunity to immortalize his name in the description he gave, called the "Star Spangled Banner."

"The rocket's red glare,
And bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night,
That our flag was still there."

Peace was declared in 1814, and in 1815 my father came west into the great sea of a forest, and into the savage wilds of the valley of the Mohican, where all kinds of wild animals were to be found, bear, wolves, deer, and the uncivilized Indian. He settled on the southeast quarter of section five in Perry township, Richland county, Ohio. In the fall of the same year he entered the northeast quarter of section 28 and settled on Lost Run, a tributary to Owl Creek, in 1816. He then became a neighbor to the Leverings, having settled two and a half miles north of Daniel Levering, who had previously settled there. Shortly afterward

they became acquainted with each other, and were united in one common brotherhood for defense against an invading foe, and also to assist each other in all things that were right and just. Their children still own the lands they entered and lived upon; and as one and another have departed this life they took their flight to the great beyond, "where the wicked cease from troubling, and the weary are at rest." Though long years have rolled away, a friendly feeling continues to exist between the Levering's and the Singrey's which is manifested by my presence here to-day. Long may it so continue.

My father, being a millwright, worked for Daniel Levering who built a grist-mill and saw-mill at what is now called Waterford. He also worked for William Levering, in the year 1825. He built a horse-mill, which was abandoned in 1839. He then built a saw-mill, which was run with water power. In 1833 my father built a saw-mill north of this about half a mile, on the same stream of water. They sawed the peoples timber, and lived in peace with each other. No misunderstanding or jar ever occurred between them on account of what each one was doing, and each one had a competency which made life worth the living. I will here say that Daniel Levering died so early in my day that I have no distinct remembrance of him. He is the grandfather of Hon. John C. Levering, Mrs. Wirick, Mrs. Graham, and others. I well remember grandmother Mary Levering, his wife. She was often at my father's house, and I still retain her in my memory. She is also the grandmother of those I have already named. William Levering and wife I remember well. They were the father and mother of Morris, Nelson, Morgan, David, and Milton Levering; he was the

grandfather of Hon. Allen Levering, Byron and Robert, also of F. W. Levering and others.

Our fathers were honorable, great and good men, and our mothers, great, grand and good mothers. Many of them left luxurious homes, and came with their husbands to the dense forests from the eastern states, and here endured the privations, fatigue, toil and danger necessarily attending a pioneer's life. God bless the memory of our fathers and mothers!

I am glad that I was kindly remembered by my friends, and requested to be here to try in my weakness to help build up a lasting monument to their worthy and honored memory. May their names be written in a book that they may be remembered by generations yet to come. Over the tomb of earth born heroes, it has been said by a recent writer: "Death leaves us nothing but their greatness." Not so with the departed pioneer fathers and mothers, whose memory we have met to record. For as we're here assembled in the Owl Creek valley, we are looking across the trackless sea of time that separates us from those we love. We behold an open port; our thoughts sweep o'er the sunlit plains; we see their forms as they were when they departed, and hear the voices of loved ones. The fires of memory burn within us, and we find ourselves saying, they are here, they are here with us, in our memory still.

The Closing Exercises.

William H. Levering:—Now we have come to the time when we shall go hence. We have had a happy day, happy people, and a happy occasion throughout. We have been favored by the elements. God has

looked on us with favor. God has said, teach these things to your sons. Why didn't He say to the daughters? God knew the girls would be all right if the young men behaved themselves. Yet, if you please, He didn't give woman a second place. Woman was made in the likeness of God, and shares with Him the great distinction of multiplying, replenishing and dominating the earth. So please we will go hence. I say, the real man is the woman he carries in his heart. Let us go hand in hand. God has said, every place whereon your feet tread shall be jewels. Let us be faithful. Let us know that all of our interests, whether they be political, or domestic, or religious, all of them are interdependent. Let us be faithful and in all things look to God. Now we will praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Reminiscences.

The following was written by Nathan Levering and distributed to his children and near friends in his old age.

A Brief Analysis or Paraphrase of the Lord's Prayer.

Many Christians no doubt use this prayer in a light and trivial manner without comprehending the full meaning contained in the words they rehearse. When we say our Father which art in heaven, we acknowledge ourselves His children, and we are His by creation and by preservation, and if we are His by regeneration, we will hallow and glorify His great name, and sincerely desire His kingdom might come, and His will be done on earth as it is done in heaven,

thereby pledging ourselves to be reconciled thereto let His providences be adverse or prosperous. And as we are needy creatures depending upon Him for all things that we need, both for time and eternity, therefore we are requested to ask Him to give us this day or day by day our daily bread, to sustain our mortal bodies, and forgive us our debts or trespasses or sins, as we forgive others their trespasses or sins against us, this implies that we have no hatred or ill will against any of our fellow creatures, but if we harbor malice or hatred in our hearts against any, then in using this petition we pray for the curse of God to rest upon our own heads. But if we are free from all malice and hatred, we may with propriety ask Him to lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, or support and deliver us when we are tempted, or with the temptation make way for our escape, and that we may put our trust and confidence in Him who is King of kings and Lord of lords, who has infinite power throughout His vast immensity, and will have the glory of the salvation of every saint from the beginning of the world to the end of it. And we may truly say, not unto us, not unto us, but unto Thy name be the glory. Verily, so be it. Amen.

War Anecdotes published by the Iowa Historical Record.

War Anecdotes of 1812.

It was in 1811 or 1812 when England held the right of search upon the high seas, that Henry Levering of Knox Co., O., chanced to be a passenger on board of an American merchant vessel on Lake Erie, on which vessel were two deserters from the British army making their way to the United States to seek protection under the stars and stripes, and become citizens in the land of the free and home of the brave. They were cheerful, with hearts buoyant with the hope of soon reaching their haven of safety, when all of a sudden their star of hope was obscured by a cloud of despair, and they were soon brought to realize the frailty of human hopes as they espied in the distance a British man-of-war making for them. At the rapid rate she was traveling she would soon overhaul the American, and instead of their landing in the land of the free their lifeless bodies would dangle at the yard-arms of his majesty's man-of-war. And as the vessel neared them their chances for escape seemed less hopeful. The deserters became frantic with alarm; they urged the captain to resist search and

they would stand by him till death. The captain assured them that would be folly, as he would endanger the lives of his crew, likewise his cargo and vessel, and that he was not prepared to resist an armed man-of-war, but that he would do the best he could for them. The captain at once took them down into the cabin where Henry Levering was lying sick on a bed. The deserters were told to lie down upon the floor side by side, which they quickly did, and Mr. Levering was hurriedly laid upon them completely hiding them from view. This was scarcely accomplished when a shot was fired from the British man-of-war across the bow of the American vessel commanding her to haul to to be searched, which order was obeyed. The crew were assembled on deck, and as the man-of-war neared the American ship, she threw out her grappling irons and drew the ship up within boarding distance. The British officer then demanded the number of passengers. The American captain then informed him that they were all on deck except a sick man in the cabin. The British officer then stepped aboard and after scrutinizing the passengers and crew on deck proceeded to the cabin. Passing down the steps about half-way he halted and took survey of the apartment when he inquired of the sick man the nature of his illness, where he was from, etc., doubtless to ascertain his dialect and more fully satisfy himself, all of which was apparently satisfactory. He returned to the deck, where another hasty inspection of all aboard took place, which doubly assured the searcher that there were no deserters aboard. He returned to his own vessel, spread sail and to the great relief of all on board the American vessel, especially the two *bed-ridden* Brittains, who had been vibrating, as it were, between life and death, and whose star of hope now began to emerge from the cloud of despair that had so nearly obscured it. They could not be persuaded to leave their concealment until fully assured that their pursuers were at a safe distance, when they shook of their bed-rider and came forth like new born souls. With their cup of joy full and like him who had found his lost sheep, they called in their neighbors to rejoice with them. They were doubtless more profuse in their demonstrations of joy than he who found the sheep, regarding their lives of more value than many sheep, and as they cast their eyes over the rolling billows of the trackless waters in search of their pursuers, they fully realized the fact that distance lends enchantment to the view. Without further molestation they were soon after landed upon American soil with grateful expressions of gratitude for their safe deliverance.

Many years after the invalid, who was the means of their concealment, chanced to meet one of them in central Ohio; the meeting was a mutual surprise. The English deserter still showed as warm and grateful a heart as the day when he was rescued from what he regarded certain death.

The following historical reminiscence is taken from the Annals of Iowa of January 1873.

Death of Lieutenant Andrew Levering.

In December 1863, soon after Gen. Sully had established his headquarters at Sioux City for the winter, Lieut. A. Levering, his aid-de-camp died. In the death of this officer Gen. Sully sustained a great loss. He repeatedly said that it was the severest blow that had ever befallen him during his military career. He regarded the lieutenant as one of the most accurate and thorough business men that it ever had been his pleasure to meet. The funeral services took place at the First Presbyterian Church, Rev. Stephen Phelps officiating, who paid a merited tribute to the many virtues of the gallant dead, and eloquently eulogized his character as a brave and gallant soldier. He was buried at the corner of Pearl and Sixth Streets.

The following obituary written by Capt. King, a brother staff officer, appeared in the Sioux City journals:

DIED.—In this city, on the 15th instant, of congestion of the lungs, Andrew Levering, of Company C, First Minnesota Volunteers, and aid-de-camp to Brigadier General Sully, commanding district of Iowa, aged thirty-four years. Lieutenant Levering was the first man that enlisted in the defense of the Union under the first call of the President for volunteers. He enlisted on the 16th day of April, 1861, as a private in the First Minnesota Volunteers. He was present and took an active part in the battle of Bull Run, July 21, 1861, and all the battles of the army of the Potomac up to the battle of Fredericksburg. He was promoted lieutenant in April last, and immediately placed on duty on the staff of Brigadier General Sully. He was a gentleman in every sense of the word. He was kind and courteous to those under him, and his high sense of honor and unflinching attention to the discharge of his duties, won for him the confidence and respect of superiors. Among his brother officers he was respected and beloved for his genial and social qualities, and strict integrity and gentlemanly deportment gained the confidence and esteem of all who knew him.

Lieutenant Levering was born in the city of Philadelphia, Pa. Graduated at the University of Pennsylvania in 1846. Some years after he removed to St. Paul, Minn., where he engaged in the banking and real estate business, which he followed until he enlisted as stated above. It is claimed by Gen. Sully, Capt. King and others that he was the very first man in the United States to enlist in defense of his country when insult was offered her glorious stars and stripes, the insignia of American freedom, and the thunderings of war threatened the demolition of her institutions. He was prompted by no other or higher motive than that of pure patriotism, as he gave up the peaceful walks of life and a lucrative business for the hardships and peril of the camp and field and meagre pay of a private soldier. He asked no higher commission than to carry a musket and when promoted it was without any solicitation on his part. Pure patriotism has its reward—the names of its heroes are wreathed in a garland of glory that will last until the extreme verge of time.

About the middle of January following his death his remains were disinterred and forwarded to his friends in Philadelphia, where they were reintombed in the Roxborough Baptist Church cemetery, where a large number of his relatives rest and where he had expressed a desire a short time previous to his death to be buried. There rests the true patriot and brave soldier.

Appendix to Proceedings.

Permanent Organization to be Effected—List of Committees Appointed.

A meeting of the Levering Reunion Association was held at Levering, O., October 17, 1891. Meeting called to order by the President. Minutes of previous meeting read and approved. On motion John C. Levering, Charles B. Levering and Allen Levering were appointed as a committee to publish the proceedings of the recent Reunion in book form, the number of copies to be determined by the committee. It was resolved to make the organization permanent and a committee on Constitution and By-laws, consisting of Allen Levering, J. C. Levering and W. C. Penn were appointed to report at next meeting.

The Association proceeded to the election of officers for the coming year with the following result:

President, Charles B. Levering; Vice President, Noah C. Levering; Recording Secretary, Mrs. Edward Levering; Corresponding Secretary, John C. Levering; Treasurer, Shannon Levering; Historical Compiler, Frank O. Levering.

On motion a vote of thanks was tendered Mr. E. W. Brown for the use of his grove in which the reunion was held.

On motion a committee on time and place for the next Reunion was chosen, consisting of C. B. Levering, E. W. Brown, J. C. Levering, Joseph S. Graham and Allen Levering.

Finance Committee—C. B. Levering, Allen Levering, Shannon Levering, Noah C. Levering.

Having been informed of the death of Mrs. Grace D. Levering, of Denver, Colorado, wife of Frank H. Levering and daughter-in-law of Col. John Levering, of Lafayette, Ind., the following was offered by J. C. Levering:

Recognizing the fact that all bearing the honored name of Levering in the United States belong to the same brotherhood,

Resolved, That we humbly bow to the will of the Ruler of the Universe in removing from earth one whose sweet and cultivated voice was so charming here to join the choir above.

Resolved, That we truly sympathize with the bereaved husband and friends and send our sympathy and condolence.

Resolved, That a copy of the above be spread upon the minutes of the Association and a copy be send to the friends.

Also, having learned of the death of Mrs. Martha Levering, wife of William C. Levering, and mother of Manda L. Crocker, at Rome City, Ind., whose protracted illness prevented her husband from attending the late Reunion, has been called to the reunion above.

Resolved, That we humbly bow to the will of an Allwise Providence in calling one of our name and number from earth to the better world since the Reunion here.

Resolved, That this Association tender to the bereaved husband and family our true sympathy and condolence.

Resolved, That the above be spread upon the minutes of the Association and a copy be sent to the bereaved friends.

The Association then selected the following Executive Committee: John C. Levering, Chairman; Charles B. Levering, Allen Levering, J. B. Levering, Shannon Levering, Edward Levering, C. W. Penn, John Williams, J. S. Graham, Daniel Levering, Lloyd Levering, Mrs. Carrie Levering, Mrs. Benton Levering, Mrs. J. S. Graham, Mrs. Satina Levering, Mrs. Mary J. Levering, Mrs. Lydia Levering, Mrs. Hanna Selover, Mrs. Daniel Levering, Mrs. Zetta Levering, Mrs. Ella Hosack, and Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Brown.

After a general discussion of matters pertaining to a future Reunion and family history, adjourned to meet at the call of the President.

C. B. LEVERING, *President.*

C. W. PENN, *Secretary pro tem.*

Second Meeting.

At a second meeting of the Levering Family Reunion Association held at the residence of John C. Levering, December 14, 1891, upon the call of the Corresponding Secretary, the committee appointed to prepare a Constitution and By-laws made a report, which was adopted and is as follows:

WHEREAS, The name of Levering being connected with the early history and settlement of America, two brothers, Wigard and Gerhard, emigrated to this country more than two hundred years ago, whose descendants are now to be found in every State and Territory of the Union, whose posterity participated in the Revolutionary war for the independence of the United States, the war of 1812, and also the war of the Rebellion, and

WHEREAS, The name has ever been connected with the progress, improvement and prosperity of this country, for the purpose of fostering fraternal relations and gathering and preserving family history,

Resolved, That we form ourselves into an organization and adopt a Constitution and By-laws.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.

This Association shall be known as the Levering Family Historical Association.

ARTICLE II.

The object of this Association shall be to collect historical information concerning the family, to provide for holding family reunions, and publishing family history and genealogy.

ARTICLE III.

The officers of this Association shall consist of a President, a Vice President, a Recording Secretary, a Corresponding Secretary, a Treasurer, and Historian. There shall also be an Executive Committee to consist of the President, Vice President, Secretaries and Treasurer, and four other members to be elected by the Association.

ARTICLE IV.

It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all meetings of the Association, to fill any vacancy that may occur, and perform the duties usually belonging to that office in deliberative bodies.

ARTICLE V.

It shall be the duty of the Vice President to perform the duties of the President in his absence.

ARTICLE VI.

It shall be the duty of the Recording Secretary to keep a record of all the meetings of the Association in a book provided for that purpose, and to receive and pay to the Treasurer all monies, taking his receipt therefor, and to notify any absent members of their election or appointment on committees.

ARTICLE VII.

It shall be the duty of the Corresponding Secretary to take charge of and conduct the correspondence of the Association, to collect items of interest to the family history, and report to the Executive Committee and Historian when called upon to do so, and have the care of such articles as may be donated to the Association.

ARTICLE VIII.

It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to keep all moneys belonging to the Association, and to pay out the same when directed by the President or Executive Committee, taking receipt for the same.

ARTICLE IX.

It shall be the duty of the Historian to take charge of all historical matter pertaining to the Association, to collect family history and genealogy, and to publish the same, that a complete family history may be preserved.

ARTICLE X.

The Executive Committee shall have a general supervision of the affairs of the Association, to appoint time and place for meetings or

Reunions, and the appointment of Special Committees to further the interests of the Association, and five members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

ARTICLE XI.

This Association shall hold annual meetings in December of each year, the date to be fixed by the Executive Committee, at which time the officers of the Association shall be elected and continue in office until their successors are chosen.

ARTICLE XII.

This constitution may be altered or amended at any annual meeting of the Association by two-thirds of the members present.

BY-LAWS.

SECTION 1. Any person bearing the name of Levering, or any person connected or related by marriage, may become members of this Association by signing the constitution or sending their name to the Recording Secretary and paying a membership fee of two dollars and one dollar annual dues.

SECTION 2. All elections shall be by ballot, and no member will be entitled to vote who is in arrears for dues.

On motion Col. John Levering, of Lafayette, Ind., was elected Historian.

The President, Vice President and Treasurer were authorized to advance the sum of $50.00 to the Historian, for the purpose of defraying the preliminary expenses of publishing the "Levering Family History."

The further election of officers, as provided by the constitution, was deferred until the next meeting.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned to meet at the call of the President.

JOHN C. LEVERING, *Secretary pro tem.*

CHAS. B. LEVERING, *President.*

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